

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG HOSPITAL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the remarkable history and invaluable contributions of an extraordinary hospital in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is fitting that we recognize this outstanding institution for its leadership in health care and rehabilitation and for its enduring service to the people of our community and our Nation. It is to commend this distinguished organization that I rise to honor the Craig Hospital on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, "Celebrating a Century of Rebuilding Lives."

The growing importance of innovation in health care to our well being as a society and our quality of life is well documented. Craig Hospital is a powerful community of hope and it provides people with new possibilities. Craig has set the standard for quality patient outcomes. It is an internationally recognized leader in health care and has long been recognized as a premier national center of excellence in the specialties of rehabilitation and research for patients with spinal cord injuries and acquired brain injuries.

From its founding as the "Tent Colony of Brotherly Love" in 1907 to the world class facility we know today, Craig Hospital continues to be a beacon of hope and remains committed to the well being of its patients. Rehabilitation is a process very different from traditional medical care. It involves teaching patients and families to care for themselves. It requires setting high expectations and hard work by patients to maximize neurological recovery, restore functional abilities and make the psychological adjustments needed to remain as independent and productive as possible.

Since 1956, Craig Hospital has treated more than 25,500 patients—more spinal cord injury patients than any other single facility in the world. Last year, Craig treated patients from 48 states and for the past 18 years, it has been ranked among the Top Ten Rehabilitation Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. Its spinal cord and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation programs are designated by the U.S. National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) as Model Systems Centers. Since 2006, Craig is the NIDRR National Database and Statistical Center (HDSC) for the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems.

Craig Hospital has burnished a reputation of compassion and legacy of care rivaled by very few. Patients have characterized Craig Hospital as "a miracle (that is) here for patient care, not for health care dollars;" as "phenomenal at all they do for patients and families." It comes as no surprise that Craig Hospital has been awarded Magnet Designation—a national honor—by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for its excellence in staff

collaboration and teamwork and for the spirit of inquiry among bed-side nurses as to what is best for patient care. Truly we, as residents of the 1st Congressional District, are fortunate indeed to have an asset of such magnitude in our community.

Please join me in commending Craig Hospital for its 100 years of leadership in health care and its invaluable service to our community and our Nation. It is the commitment and dedication that Craig Hospital and members of its staff exhibit on a daily basis which continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all of our people.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NANCY OSBORNE'S SERVICE TO KFSN-TV ABC 30

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the distinguished career of Nancy Osborne, on the occasion of her 30th anniversary of being part of the KFSN-TV ABC 30 family in California's Central Valley.

Nancy grew up on Army bases in the United States as well as Japan and Turkey. She graduated from Las Cruces High School in New Mexico and attended New Mexico State University for 3 years. In between a 5-year hiatus from college and motherhood, Nancy relocated to Fresno, CA, in 1973. Upon settling in Fresno, she returned to college and graduated from Fresno State University with a bachelors of arts degree in speech communications in 1976.

A year into graduate school at Fresno State, Nancy accepted a reporting job with KFSN-TV 30, the local ABC affiliate television station in Fresno, California and became one of only a handful of women in the local broadcast industry. Nancy's success continued as she joined the anchor team at KFSN-TV in the fall of 1977 and again in 1980 when she produced and anchored the Valley's first locally produced news magazine show along with co-anchoring the Action News Program.

Nancy's promising career with ABC 30 continued throughout the years and in 1996 she accepted the challenge of joining the Action News Management team. While continuing her coverage of the Valley's political scene and issues involving children and families, she was named Executive Producer—Special Projects, a position which allowed her to play a key role in helping shape Action News around the clock.

In January 2004, Nancy returned to reporting full time, bringing her experience and expertise to the expanding daily Action News coverage. In addition to full-time reporting, Nancy also co-anchors Action News Live at Five with Warren Armstrong.

Through the 30 years of service and loyalty to KFSN-TV ABC 30, Nancy Osborne has

demonstrated the highest level of dedication to her community. She has emerged as one of the Valley's most trusted names in news and her contributions to the Valley's broadcast industry will never be forgotten. It is my sincere hope that continued health, prosperity, and success be with Nancy through all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDY PRIDEAUX

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Randy Prideaux, a civic-minded business leader and longtime resident of Union Grove, Wisconsin whose energetic commitment to his community touched countless lives. Randy died unexpectedly last week, sending waves of shock and sorrow through Southeastern Wisconsin, where he was well-known through his business and civic leadership.

Randy worked his way up the ladder at Union Grove Lumber over nearly 40 years to become CEO of this local lumber and hardware business. He also served as a member of my Small Business Advisory Board, and I am grateful that he took the time to share his expertise with us. He knew the challenges that small business owners face day in and day out, and his insights on issues from health care to tax policies were very helpful. If there was one thing you could always count on, it was that Randy would tell you what he truly thought, whether he agreed or disagreed with you. His candor and his dedication to doing what is right for Union Grove will be sorely missed.

Besides working to strengthen the community as an employer and businessman, Randy gave back in many other ways. Altogether, he served 20 years on the Village Board. He was active in the Union Grove Lions Club and had served two terms as president. He also served two terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

In his personal life, Randy was a devoted family man, who recently became a grandfather. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, granddaughter, mother, and brother, and the many friends throughout Wisconsin who mourn his loss.

HONORING JUDITH REED MEHAL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Mehal for over 28 years of dedicated service in the public education system.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Since graduating from the California University of Pennsylvania with a degree in education, Judith Mehal has continued to make a positive impact on students in Pennsylvania and Virginia school districts. Ms. Mehal began teaching in the Penn Hills and South Allegheny school districts of Pennsylvania, but she has spent the vast majority of her venerable career in Fairfax County. After a brief stint at Cardinal Forest Elementary School, Ms. Mehal found her niche at Lanier Middle School where she was able to pursue her passion for teaching mathematics. During her time at Lanier Middle School, she earned a masters degree from Virginia Tech and became a teacher of technology education. In her 22 years at the school, she has become an integral part of the Lanier community, and her presence will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

Ms. Mehal's distinguished career is exemplary of the high standard to which public school teachers hold themselves. Her willingness and ability to teach a variety of disciplines is highly commendable, as is her own commitment to pursuing higher education while continuing to teach in the Fairfax County school system.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Mehal on her retirement as a technology education teacher from Lanier Middle School. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Judith Reed Mehal and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. NICK MANCINI

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that thousands of St. Paul friends and neighbors, along with me, mourn the passing of Mr. Nick Mancini. At 80 years of age, Nick died on May 29, 2007, and Minnesota lost a very special person.

Nick Mancini, a man of exceptional kindness, generosity and warmth of spirit, was the owner of Mancini's Char House and Lounge, a St. Paul landmark since the 1960s. For those who have never visited Nick Mancini's restaurant, it would be difficult to understand the deep sentiment and fondness we in St. Paul feel for Nick and his family. For those of us who have frequented Mancini's, we were always made to feel at home and Nick, his sons and the entire staff made us feel special—like we were part of the family. In a fast food era when the tradition of hospitality is increasingly lost in America, St. Paul is blessed with a special place—Mancini's Char House—where every customer is made to feel welcome and comfortable, and that is before you started eating a delicious steak dinner.

Hospitality and generosity were the hallmark of Nick Mancini's career and calling. He was a restaurateur, a neighborhood anchor, a St. Paul legend and a very, very caring man who I will miss and always remember. For me, visiting with Nick was always special. This was

because being Nick's guest was to be enveloped by his warmth, sincerity and kindness. It didn't matter whether you were a Member of Congress, a U.S. Senator, the Mayor of St. Paul, a carpenter, a teacher, or a truck driver, to Nick you were his guest. Everyone was treated special and with respect, and everyone left his restaurant a little heavier and happier.

Along with remembering Nick, I would like to acknowledge his family and express my condolences to Nick's wife, Maryann, his sons Pat, John and Nick, Jr., and his grandchildren.

The work of Nick Mancini will not disappear with his passing. Mancini's Char House will continue to be a St. Paul landmark and an oasis of hospitality. Pat and John Mancini are carrying on the tradition of hospitality and community leadership that so many of us in St. Paul admire and appreciate. For this lasting tradition St. Paul, Minnesota, and our Nation has Nick Mancini to thank.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Friday is World Oceans Day—a day we celebrate the vast waters that cover two-thirds of the surface of our planet.

A small, but biologically important part of the Blue Planet is offshore of my 6th Congressional District, a stretch that encompasses the entire coastline of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

If you've driven the Marin-Sonoma coast you know how beautiful it is. Most of it is undeveloped or sparsely populated. Its sparkling waters, curling waves, pristine beaches, moon rocked cliffs, surging tide pools, and its soaring seabirds and breaching whales inspire and delight. Thanks to nutrient rich upwelling which provides a bounty of phytoplankton at the bottom of the food chain, our waters support 33 species of marine mammals, including blue and humpbacked whales and elephant seals, at the top of the food chain.

That's not to say that even here there are not problems. Today the commercial fishing fleet of Bodega Bay is just a remnant of past days. Last year, because of a water allotment that devastated the Klamath River fishery, our commercial salmon fishing season was slashed. Meanwhile, native coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout are on the endangered species list.

These tragic depletions of our fisheries are symptomatic of many things: global overfishing; inland habitat destruction; and water diversions; climate change; pollution, coastal development—all of which were addressed by reports from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, and all of which need to be seriously dealt with.

But the ocean is amazingly resilient. Aquatic populations can come back, if we take positive actions.

All of our oceans need enlightened governance and protection, but there are places that are so rich, so vitally important to sustaining marine life that we need to immediately take special measures.

The northern California coast is one of those places, and that's why I have introduced

legislation, H.R. 1187, to expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to include the entire Sonoma and with the support of Representative MIKE THOMPSON and the Mendocino County board of supervisors, the southern Mendocino coast.

The current northern boundary of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries is Bodega Head. Yet research shows that the rich marine geological area of the Gulf of the Farallones actually extends to Point Arena, about 100 miles north of Bodega Head.

The Sonoma and southern Mendocino coast has two great estuaries, the Russian and Gualala Rivers. The Russian River watershed is especially burdened by multiple threats caused by human development. My bill protects these estuaries by banning increased polluting discharges into their waters. And, it will ensure that changes in flow or salinity do not harm marine life.

Marine sanctuary protection will also ensure that the Bodega Marine Laboratory will be able to continue 50-years of studies in these pristine waters—research that will help us learn how to live with an ocean that is not so endless that it cannot be despoiled.

The people of Sonoma and Mendocino love their coast, and because we will bring to it permanent protection, ecosystem management and the vital research that the marine sanctuary program provides, we will pass it on to our children, unspoiled and thriving with life.

That's my commitment as we celebrate World Oceans Day.

HONORING MAITHREYI GOPALAKRISHNAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan, an eighth grader at Peak to Peak Charter School in Superior, Colorado. She recently made the semifinals at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. She has been to several spelling bees and 2 years ago, finished at an impressive 37th place. At this year's National Spelling Bee, Ms. Gopalakrishnan beat out opponents by spelling the word *salinelle*, a mud volcano erupting saline mud—solidifying her chance to win the contest. The winner of the National Spelling Bee receives \$35,000, a \$5,000 scholarship, a savings bond of \$2,500 and a set of reference works.

Two hundred and eighty-six extraordinary students from across the Nation train vigorously in preparation for this annual event held at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. Students are expected to be able to spell words such as *protoplasm* and my personal favorite, *bewusstseinslage*, which means a state of consciousness—something my critics occasionally accuse me of losing.

The skills and values that Ms. Gopalakrishnan already displays will help her with many challenges that she may face in the future. Furthermore, her commitment to learning and competitive drive makes her a strong student who is sure to excel in her academic career. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan in all of

her accomplishments and wish her success as she continues on her quest for knowledge.

CONGRATULATING MR. TOM
DAVENPORT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Tom Davenport of Lake Dallas, Texas for his 18 years of service as Superintendent of Schools for the Lake Dallas Independent School District.

During his tenure, the school district has more than doubled in size and has been in a continuous building program since 1995. In his 38 years of teaching and school administration, his focus has always been on providing top-quality education for his students.

In addition to his passion for education, Tom has deeply impressed me by his forward thinking in other areas. A few years ago, Tom made the decision to install geothermal heating and cooling in Lake Dallas ISD schools. He recognized that, despite higher up-front capital costs, the District would save money over time, as well as help clean the environment by using a renewable source.

Tom is very active in various professional organizations on both the state and national level. He is a member of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, having served as President of the Federal Properties Section for two years. On the state level, he has served as treasurer for the Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools since 1999. He is also a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators and has served as a mentor superintendent for four newly hired superintendents across the state.

In the past he has served as Commissioner of Education Advisory Committee and served as Chair of the Education Service Center, Region XI TASA Study Group. He is a Senatorial District Representative for the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools. Other professional organizations to which he belongs include, Phi Delta Kappa, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Texas Association of Community Schools, and the Equity Center.

Locally he is a member of the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce and served as vice-president for six years. He was selected as the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2005. He is also a member of the Lake Cities Lions Club and is an active member of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Lake Dallas.

Tom plans to reside in the Lake Cities area after retirement with his wife Carolyn.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Tom Davenport for years of hard work and dedication. I am pleased to join his friends, family, and colleagues in congratulating him on his retirement after years of devoted service.

TRIBUTE TO THE DENVER GAY
MEN'S CHORUS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to commend the exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. It is fitting that we recognize this chorus for its extraordinary service and its enduring commitment to creative and performance excellence as well as the enrichment of the artistic and cultural experience in the 1st congressional district and throughout Colorado.

Since its inception, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has proven to be a powerful force in promoting both artistic excellence and civic values. Founded in 1982, the chorus was the first openly gay organization in Denver. The group is a talented choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence and it has been a beacon of strength and support for the gay and lesbian community. Touching ears and hearts alike, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, with its unique ability to convey acceptance and pride, continue to be in high demand with diverse audiences. Truly, the chorus has established itself as a major cultural presence that has served to expand the appreciation of choral music and its enduring value as a means of poignant artistic expression.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has openly declared that it exists to build community through music. Members have joined together for the explicit purpose of providing educational, cultural and social enrichment for themselves and their audiences. It is an organization of gay people and their friends that is actively engaged in making a positive contribution to the entire community.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has amassed a distinguished record of service to our State and our Nation. It has participated in the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festivals in six cities—Denver, Montreal, New York, San Jose, Seattle, and Tampa—representing Denver and Colorado as cultural ambassadors to the world. It has participated in exchange concerts with gay men's choruses in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

In 1990, Rich Geraghty of Denver was appointed administrative director of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Board of Directors. Prior to locating in Washington, DC, the first national offices of the GALA Choruses were in Denver. In 1992, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus welcomed over 3,500 delegates and hosted 65 choruses at the GALA Choruses Festival IV held at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. "Of Rage and Remembrance," by featured composer John Corigliano, was performed at the festival's special AIDS Memorial Concert during the peak of AIDS deaths nationwide.

Over the past 25 years, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has performed over 130 different concert programs featuring over 1,300 compositions, arrangements, commissioned works, and medleys. It comes as no surprise that the chorus was honored with the Denver

Mayor's A ward for Excellence in the Arts for 1992.

As a choir member at Montview Presbyterian Church, I have an appreciation of choral music's power and its capacity to inspire both singers and audiences alike. It has been noted that "singing is the bridge between heaven and earth; between ages and cultures. It has the power to move hearts and to touch us in ways that truly transcend mundane experience." Today, we celebrate the transforming power of choral music. We celebrate the invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus as it continues to promote artistic excellence, pride and community. Choral music touches all of us and we are indeed fortunate to have a cultural asset of such magnitude. Please join me in commending the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a distinguished choral ensemble. It is the leadership and dedication which members of this chorus exhibit on a daily basis that continually enhance our lives and build a better future for all of our people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED
STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER M. MOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of SSG Christopher M. Moore, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christopher M. Moore attended Alpaugh High School in Alpaugh, CA. He excelled in academics and graduated early. After Christopher graduated from high school he joined the United States Army. He was so proud to serve in the military; he enlisted for a second term. Christopher Moore was the first Alpaugh High School graduate to die in combat.

While serving with the 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, Christopher performed all of his active duties with great satisfaction. Tragically, on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 2007, the vehicle in which Christopher traveled was hit by an improvised explosive device. Christopher and five other soldiers were killed in the incident.

Christopher is survived by his mother, Martha Moore, two sisters, and one brother. Also surviving are his three young daughters and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Michael's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and determination to fight for our Nation will forever live in the minds and hearts of his family and Americans across the country. SSG Christopher M. Moore's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us and for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM
KOSSORIS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Southeastern Wisconsin lost a truly dedicated teacher last week—Tom Kossoris, who taught at Mukwonago High School over the past three decades. He passed away after a lengthy battle with illness brought on by a brain tumor. I would like to take a moment to honor his memory and reflect on the lessons he passed along to his students and others who knew him.

Tom taught history, political science and economics. He demanded a lot from his students—setting high standards that challenged them to excel. In an account that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, his fellow teacher, Bruce Lammers put it well, saying: “Tom taught me to have students meet your expectations. Challenge the kids academically, and the kids rise to your standards.” Tom combined this toughness with a dry sense of humor and an unfailing commitment to his students’ education.

Every year, Tom brought students to Washington to enhance and expand on what they had learned—showing them their government in action, as well as the site of so many watersheds and debates over the course of our nation’s history. I could count on hearing from Tom, who would ask for assistance with getting tours of the Capitol or other opportunities to make his students’ trip memorable. He held himself to the same high standards he expected of others—working tirelessly to make sure students got the most out of their experience in Washington.

Over the years he retained a love of teaching, as well as an intellectual energy and enthusiasm that he passed on to others. On top of his other teaching duties, Tom became a driver’s education instructor, giving lessons before school on weekdays and on Saturdays. His sharp mind, his wit, and his determination to bring out the best in students will be greatly missed by the whole community.

HONORING CYNTHIA SIEGEL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for over 30 years of educational service to students in Virginia, New York, and Germany.

Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Siegel began her career in education in New York, teaching for six years on the high school level and two years for an education program at CitiBank. Mrs. Siegel’s calling as a teacher didn’t leave her because of a geographic location. As the spouse of an Army officer, she found herself in Germany and confronted with a base that lacked a teacher for the military school there. She gladly stepped up and filled that need. Upon her return to the U.S., Mrs. Siegel worked for six years at the Washington Business School of Northern Virginia. She

joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 1989, piloting the Technology Tools class for Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia. Mrs. Siegel has been a dedicated educator at Lanier for the past 21 years.

Teaching students for over three decades and on two continents, she has demonstrated her unequivocal passion for education. Over her career, Mrs. Siegel found opportunities to actively serve in different educational systems in Virginia, New York and Europe. A proud mother and grandmother, Mrs. Siegel will continue her service to young people during her retirement. She has fondly exclaimed, “my role as an educator will remain, only my title will officially shift from Mrs. Siegel to grandma.”

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for her enduring service as a teacher in Fairfax County and abroad. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Cynthia Siegel for her efforts and wishing her many happy years in retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2317, LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2316, HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Honest Leadership Open Government Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI for taking this important step in changing the way business is done in Washington.

H.R. 2316 will bring real transparency to lobbyists’ activities in order to break the corrupting influence that has been present over the last decade in Congress. This bill requires disclosure of lobbyists’ contributions to members, doubles the frequency of lobbyists’ reporting, and establishes a searchable public database of this disclosure information. It also increases criminal and civil penalties for those who violate the Lobby Disclosure Act and bans the K street project.

The Honest Leadership Open Government Act includes new requirements for Members of Congress, including required disclosure of job negotiations for post-Congressional employment, and establishes a public database for Members’ travel and financial disclosure information.

This legislation is the second step in fulfilling the Democrats’ promise to clean up Washington. In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress we passed new House Rules imposing the toughest ethics standards ever. These rules banned gifts, meals and trips paid for by lobbyists. The House has also voted to deny pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption.

The House of Representatives is the People’s House. In order to ensure that we are truly responsive to and representative of the people, it is critical that lobbyists’ do not have undue access to Members or influence over

the legislative process. H.R. 2316 shines a bright light on lobbyists’ activities in order to end the illegal practices that waste taxpayer dollars and bring disgrace to this institution.

Under Democratic leadership, this Congress is moving America in a New Direction. Our priorities put the interests of American families ahead of special interests. I am proud to support this legislation today and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 5th, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcalls Nos. 426–430.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following:

Rollcall No. 426, H. Res. 327—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 427, H. Res. 422—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 430—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 451—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 430, H. Res. 452—“aye.”

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
PATRICK HENRY BRADY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Major General Patrick H. Brady for his relentless and selfless service to this country. Major General Brady should be remembered for his heroic display while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, where he went above and beyond his call of duty flying multiple missions into hostile territory to evacuate severely wounded soldiers as an air ambulance pilot. It is estimated that Major General Brady may have evacuated more wounded from the battlefield than anyone in American history, over 5,000.

Major General Brady’s gallantry and heroism has been well documented and he is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation’s second highest award; two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; 53 Air Medals, one for valor; and the Medal of Honor, the military’s highest decoration. While Major General Patrick Brady had a distinguished and honorable military career, I speak today not only to honor those achievements and his 34-year military career, but to recognize his service to our country while not wearing the uniform.

Soon Major General Brady will step down as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, after more than a decade of phenomenal service. Major General Brady’s outstanding ability enabled him to organize and motivate nearly 150 organizations whose sole focus is on passing a Constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. He has testified before Congress and worked

closely with many Members of Congress to gain support for an amendment that would ban the desecration of the American flag. I commend the Major General for his work and am confident he departs knowing the mission of the Alliance will continue due in no small part to his involvement and diligence.

I extend my best wishes to Major General Brady as he turns his attention toward his family. America will be forever indebted to him for his altruistic service to this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MOHAMMED H. QAYOUMI, PH.D., FOURTH PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mohammed H. Qayoumi, Ph.D., who assumed the presidency of Cal State University, East Bay on July 1, 2006. Dr. Qayoumi is the fourth president of the university and his formal investiture will take place at the Hayward, CA, campus of Cal State University, East Bay on June 1, 2007.

Prior to his employment at Cal State University, East Bay, President Qayoumi served as vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer at California State University, Northridge. He was also a tenured professor of engineering management at the university.

President Qayoumi has also served as vice chancellor for administrative services and as adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Rolla and was associate vice president for administration and an adjunct professor at Sari Jose State University. He has more than 27 years of experience in the service of higher education and industry.

He has a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from American University of Beirut, and MS. degrees in nuclear engineering, electrical and computer engineering, a well as an M.B.A. in finance and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

When President Qayoumi came to the United States in 1978, he was first employed as staff engineer at the University of Cincinnati, where he also held positions as director of technical services, director of utilities and engineering services and adjunct professor. Prior to 1978, President Qayoumi was employed as a communications engineer in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and as a project electrical engineer in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

President Qayoumi has published eight books, more than 85 articles and several chapters in various books. He has made presentations at numerous conferences across the United States and in 10 other countries on various topics in his areas of academic expertise.

He has served his native country of Afghanistan in various financial capacities, including minister of finance, and remains on several boards of directors, including the Central Bank of Afghanistan.

I am confident President Qayoumi will provide exemplary leadership to Cal State University and I join in wishing him every success.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE STEVENS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. Wayne Stevens, a proud member of the San Diego community and a fellow paratrooper who recently passed away at the age 64 from the effects of cancer.

Wayne's distinguished record of military service to this Nation is one of the finest examples of selflessness and courage. He served in Vietnam with Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and was among the first soldiers to arrive in country from Okinawa in 1964. For his heroism in Vietnam, Wayne was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said, "the willingness of our citizens to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, even their lives, in defense of our democratic principles, gives this great nation continued strength and vitality. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity." In making these remarks, President Reagan was speaking directly to Americans like Wayne, who have so bravely and selflessly put their country before themselves and were always willing to make the ultimate sacrifice when they were needed most.

My prayers are with Wayne's devoted wife of 42 years, Donna, his daughter Jessica and two grandchildren, Sophia and Adolph, and I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the life and memory of this true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS CASSIDY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, my friend, Dennis Cassidy, on his retirement after over 30 years of serving the people of Paso Robles, CA, most currently as chief of police.

Chief Cassidy began his law enforcement career with the Paso Robles Police Department in 1974. In 1985, Cassidy was promoted to patrol sergeant and in 1988, he became Detective Bureau commander. In 1990, he was promoted to Lieutenant, and was responsible for seeking grants to further the department's Community Outreach Program through the early 1990s. His success led to the establishment of a satellite police office, in cooperation with the Housing Authority, where two officers were assigned to work full-time. The results were remarkable. Criminal activity dropped, community and police relationships strengthened, and a safer Paso Robles gave families increased peace of mind. In 1997, Cassidy was named chief of police, a position he has held since, until his retirement.

During his tenure as chief, Cassidy was instrumental in planning the new Public Safety Center in Paso Robles. This center was put to

the test after the San Simeon earthquake in December 2003. This earthquake caused massive damage to Paso Robles and took the lives of two Paso Robles residents. The center immediately served as a staging area as Cassidy and other members of the Paso Robles Emergency Services coordinated initial rescue and recovery efforts. Later, the building was used by many different agencies brought in to assist with recovery.

Chief Cassidy has been in the forefront of exploring new technologies, which has resulted in the Paso Robles Police Department being equipped with innovative technology to help combat crime and ensure the safety of the community and residents. Specifically, Chief Cassidy was responsible for the Department obtaining its Computer Aided Dispatching and Records Management Systems, as well as Livescan fingerprinting and digital in-car video with wireless station-server download capability.

Serving his community is not something Chief Cassidy only does on-duty; he is very involved while he is off-duty. Chief Cassidy is a past commissioner of the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County, the local agency administering State tax revenue to fund education, childcare, health and other programs for expectant parents and toddlers. He also served as president of the North County Women's Resource Center, which assists women and families against domestic violence and abuse. Finally, he is active as a Paul Harris Fellow in the local Rotary, and a member of the San Luis Obispo Cattlemen's Association.

Chief Cassidy exemplifies how one can answer the call of duty to protect and serve his fellow neighbors, and do it with great passion, strength, and devotion to his community. His shoes will be tough to fill as he raised the police department's level of excellence and outstanding conduct, and has forged a relationship of trust with the community his officers serve and protect. I know Chief Cassidy looks forward to his retirement and spending time with friends and family. I commend his service to the city of Paso Robles and wish him the best as he enters into the next stage of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL VICTOR TOLEDO PULIDO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of CPL Victor H. Toledo Pulido, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After attending high school in California's Central Valley, Victor joined the Army Reserves in 2005. A year later, he signed up for active duty and was stationed at Fort Benning, GA. Victor was proud to serve in the military.

While serving with the 1st Cavalry Regiment based out of Fort Benning, Victor wore his green camouflage uniform with pride. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, the vehicle in which Victor traveled was hit with an improvised explosive device. Victor and another soldier were killed in the incident.

CPL Victor Toledo Pulido is survived by his mother, Maria Gaspar of Kettleman City, his wife, Cristi Toledo, and brothers, Yosio and Gaston Toledo Pulido. Also surviving is his son, Isak and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Victor's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and pride in our Nation will forever live in the thoughts and hearts of his family and Americans across the Nation. CPL Victor H. Toledo Pulido's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us and for generations to come.

HONORING EDWARD A. NIZIOLEK

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edward Niziolek for a remarkable 41 years of faithful service to the students of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Niziolek began his career as an educator in 1964 after graduating from the California State Teachers College with a major in mathematics. Mr. Niziolek joined Fairfax County Public Schools as a mathematics teacher at Glasgow Middle School in Alexandria, VA. After serving for five years at Glasgow, Mr. Niziolek joined the faculty at Lanier Middle School where he quickly made his mark on both the character and academic development of its students. He sponsored the Lanier Math Team, which frequently finished as one of the top performing teams in the area, including a 2nd Place finish in Mr. Niziolek's final school year. Mr. Niziolek has demonstrated his dedication to education year round, teaching an astonishing 36 summer school sessions.

Mr. Niziolek dutifully served for over four decades and demonstrated a passion for service in a school system with students from a wide array of backgrounds. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an interest in his students, a desire to help them succeed, and the ability to achieve outstanding results. All students, faculty and parents who have been in one of his classrooms have expressed an appreciation for his dedicated service to our Nation's youth.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Edward Niziolek for his tireless service and contributions as a mathematics teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools. His legacy of success is found in each student who has traveled into his classrooms, taken his tests, and who have moved on to become productive members of the community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Edward A. Niziolek for his service and wishing him the best in a well deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HAL BROWN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join you here today to

honor our colleague, Hal Brown, on his 25 years of service to Marin County. Since 1983 when he was first appointed to the Board of Supervisors to represent the Second District, Hal has demonstrated a caring, thoughtful, and committed approach to addressing the issues facing the residents of Marin.

Hal's priorities have been clear from the start. He focuses on families, education, environment, responsible government and economic vitality. His own vitality and dedication have led him to serve on more than 25 boards and organizations, from the Marin Conservation League to the Rape Crisis Center, from the county Flood Control and Water District to the Disabled Students Advisory Board.

This work has resulted in a long list of notable accomplishments—for example, preserving more than 1,500 acres of open space, promoting free bus rides for students, and authoring Marin's Family Medical Leave law.

After the New Year's Eve flood of 2005, Hal moved to make his district safer by establishing the first regional flood warning system in the Ross Valley. For long-range safety, he has spearheaded efforts for towns and organizations to work with the county, State and Federal governments to implement a comprehensive flood control plan.

"It doesn't make sense to look at just flood control or environmental restoration or water quality issues in isolation," Hal has said. "We need to address the problem with an approach that makes common, ecological and economic sense. A watershed-wide approach could meet the test of all three."

A San Anselmo resident for 35 years, Hal coached various youth sports while raising his two sons, Mike and Chris.

Madam Speaker, I have appreciated working with Supervisor Brown on the many issues faced by the Marin community, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.

Congratulations, Hal, on your 25 years of dedicated service.

DEATH OF THOMAS A. STALLWORTH

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, for years, Thomas A. Stallworth was a pillar of Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, serving as chaplain, professor of religion, soccer coach, dean of students, dean of alumni affairs, and after retirement, as interim director of church relations. He died suddenly on May 14, 2007. I offer for the record the following tribute from John V. Griffith, president of Presbyterian College:

TOM STALLWORTH: OUR MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

God's saints come in interesting sizes and shapes. They are agents of God's grace in the most unexpected of ways. So it is with Tom Stallworth.

In the fall of 1951, Tom Stallworth was a freshman at PC from the south side of Atlanta. As an undergraduate he joined and loved the PC choir under the direction of Eduard Patte, was involved in student government, led the Student Christian Association, enjoyed athletics, belonged to Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, was the leader of The Scot-

tish Highlander Battalion of ROTC, and was enjoyed by his classmates for his sense of humor, love of life, and humble faith.

After graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary and a short stint at the First Presbyterian Church of Rome, Georgia, Dr. Marshall Brown asked Tom to come to the College to teach for two years. Pete Hay was on leave. Tom retired 36 years later, although the way I look at it, Tom worked at or for PC for a total of 56 years. He has been PC's man for all seasons.

In the 1973 yearbook, one of three dedicated to Tom, he wrote prophetic words, which I have come to see as autobiographical . . . "There is an ingredient in and of this community which few miss. It's not obvious. Many take some time to see it. You may not even want to look for awhile. They do not leave the way they came. Look them up three, five, ten years from now. Won't we all be surprised? They will have a plus; it will show!"

Tom's plus showed. In him we saw much of what the College seeks to nurture in the hearts and minds of those who pass our way: a man for God, a man for God's people, and a man for PC.

Jack Edmunds, his senior year roommate remarked on Tom's call to ministry: "It was evident during his college days that Tom would go into ministry, but he was never one to wear his religion on his sleeve. He was not a pious type and that impressed people. He personified what a good minister should be."

Tom served God and served PC by serving God's people in everyday ways . . . everyday: through athletics, through music, through just doing his job . . . all of his jobs . . . whatever hat he was called to wear he served with all his heart and mind. Hello brother . . . T.A. Stallworth . . . hearty, honest, positive . . . direct! T.A. Stallworth . . . pleased to meet you. There wasn't a pretentious bone in his body. What you saw, what you heard, what you learned over time all lined up. T.A. Stallworth. Clear in what he believed . . . courageous in taking a stance on principle . . . available to serve. Thomas Aurelius Stallworth. I believe he liked Aurelius . . . in fact it is the only time I saw a twinge of hubris in the eyes of this saint. Thomas Aurelius Stallworth, God's humble and persistent servant. PC's man for all seasons.

There are so many wonderful stories about this man and his ministry. They have come flooding in from folks near and far, always laced with humor.

Athletics! Tom loved sports and found in them a way to connect with God's people.

He was on the way to lunch on campus and Cally Gault was on the way back. Cally leaned out of his car window and asked, "How would you like to be our soccer coach?" Tom said "I believe they have 11 men on a team, depending on how you count the goalie." Cally said, "You're our man!"

He was always an athlete . . . in college and as an adult. The last real team he played on was the faculty Intramural volleyball team named the "Good Old Boys." They were very serious about their volleyball and Tom is remembered by teammates Ramsey, Stidham, Weaver, Womble, Gaines, Rischbieter, Hill, Burnside and others as a great "set man" on the court and in life. When asked his most interesting experience he said "playing on a championship volleyball team with an average age of 43 that continually beats teams with an average age of 19 is interesting enough!"

Music! Music is another way Tom praised God and celebrated life. The PC Choir served as his primary social group as an undergraduate. He became a star of stage in 1981 when Dr. Charles Gaines and Dr. Dale Raines recruited him to play the part of Bellamy in

the Fantasticks. He and Randy Randall have sung "Never say No" for many audiences since then. It occurred to me that "Never Say No" became the mantra of Tom's life. Never say no to what God calls you to do. To my knowledge, he never said no to PC.

Tom and Chuck Gaines lead the singing at men's prayer breakfast belting out the old favorites in a manner that upstages Gilbert and Sullivan.

Tom sang in an infamous singing group called "The Faculty Four and the Big One" with George Ramsey, Ron Burnside, Ted Hunter, and Ken Orr (the big one). One of their most forgettable songs was Grandma got Run over by a Reindeer, with Dean Thompson playing the banjo. One person said that the group was really good . . . and no one has ever said otherwise . . .

Just doing his Job! It is here at PC as a minister of Word and Sacrament that Tom served God's people most fully. The entire PC network was his congregation.

Tom and Major General Jimmy Allen started the ROTC Alumni Association. But Tom always liked to remind Jimmy that even though Jimmy was a two star general, Tom was his Battalion Commander at PC. And together they set out to save ROTC when it was in danger of being closed by the Army.

Anyone who ever traveled with Tom knows that he did not like to travel on the Interstates or any four lane highway. He knew the back roads and always took them even if it took longer . . . although he always thought his way was quicker. One morning he intervened in my travel up Interstate 26 from Edisto. Due to a traffic jam, I had to take the Dixiana exit and enjoy the scenery along route 176. It was shorter!

"The two years I spent as Dean of Students were the ten longest years of my life," Tom told me once. "I didn't get closer to students; I got closer to meetings and paperwork. I had to go back into the classroom to get back with the students."

"I never considered myself an ivory tower scholar," he reflected on his 31 years as a professor. "My method was to mix it up with students. I could give them their money's worth in the classroom, but I think my main ability was communicating the information to them in a manner that sunk in, and I enjoyed the give-and-take inside the classroom as well as out."

Tom has conducted the marriage ceremonies of more PC people than anyone in the history of the College. He knew more PC people and their relatives than anyone I know . . . in every city and every little town across the South.

And through all of this, Mary was his partner. "One of my most memorable times at PC," wrote a 1990s graduate, "was the Easter weekend I spent writing a term paper at their kitchen table. That was one of the best weekends of my life because of the comfort I felt from Mary and Tom."

Every Homecoming cars are parked outside their house . . . people stopping by to visit and reconnect. "I think the PC Spirit is an infection I have," said Tom, "whether it is contagious or not I don't know. I'm 150 percent for PC and have tried to answer the call of whatever the College has wanted me to do."

The Class of 1963 dedicated their yearbook to Tom. Bob Piephoff, the editor, summed up the class's feelings about this good man: "We come to Presbyterian College and we leave . . . We leave taking a part of Tommy Stallworth with us."

Anne told me this morning that Tom took Andy and her aside several years ago to talk about this day and his wishes. Tom will be cremated and has asked on some weekday evening at 10:00 p.m. that they, his children,

sprinkle his ashes along the walk he took every evening of his college career from the old library, now the administration building, diagonally across the West Plaza to Smythe where he lived.

And so it shall be . . . Mary, Anne, Andy, Becky Mary Frances, Cooper, Max and Katie Brice . . . that Thomas Aurelius Stallworth leaves a part of himself with all those he touched.

Man of God's people, Man for God's people, Man for PC. T.A. Stallworth: PC's Man for All Seasons. Thank God for the life and works of this saint, who walked, played, laughed, sang, preached, and stood next to us each day. Amen!

HONORING SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI ON SERVING 20 YEARS IN THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 1987, NANCY PELOSI was sworn in to represent the people of California's 8th District. This week we recognize and commend her for 20 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, where she has served both her constituents and this Nation proudly.

During her 20 years in the House, NANCY has been a true leader on important issues, including promoting human rights, protecting the environment, and expanding health care. She has remained focused on the needs of her district, including preserving the Presidio of San Francisco as the Nation's largest urban national park, fighting for increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, and improving the lives of children.

In the 110th Congress, NANCY has ushered in a new era as the first woman Speaker of the House, setting an agenda that promotes the priorities of the American people and addresses the key challenges present in today's world. Her drive and determination make her a strong leader and legislator, and she has worked tirelessly to represent her constituents and to move our Nation in a new, positive direction.

NANCY has been a devoted public servant, both in California and in the House. She is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. It is an honor to serve with her in the House, and I am proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HeLP AMERICA ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases accounts for an estimated 75 percent of total healthcare spending and it is estimated that by 2014 our country's total health care expenditures will be \$3.6 trillion.

Clearly we cannot continue down this path. We must shift the focus of our nation's health care system to prevention and wellness programs. In so doing, we can reduce health care costs, improve health, improve quality of life, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our nation needs a new approach to healthcare—one that puts prevention front and center.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America Act, also known as the HeLP America Act. This important bill, which is companion legislation to a bill recently introduced by Senator HARKIN, is designed to reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes by reorienting our nation's health care system towards prevention, wellness, and self care.

The HeLP America Act is a comprehensive approach to prevention and health promotion. It provides tools and incentives for schools to improve their nutrition programs. It provides tax incentives for employers to implement wellness programs. It provides grants for communities to implement activities to prevent and reduce the incidence of obesity, and chronic diseases associated with this condition. It establishes a federal taskforce on childhood obesity to provide a coordinated leadership in Federal effort to prevent and reduce childhood obesity.

These are just a few of the many provisions included in the HeLP America Act, all aimed squarely at attacking the problem of skyrocketing health care costs associated with the increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses.

With a greater focus on prevention, we will be able to greatly reduce the number of individuals who suffer from all types of ailments. It will improve health outcomes, improve people's lives, and help cut down on our exploding healthcare expenditures.

Madam Speaker, as is noted in the findings of this bill, per capita health spending in the United States is 56 percent greater than the median for countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This is unacceptable. We need to get more bang for our healthcare buck and we need to look no further than focusing on prevention. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a new and more effective approach to curing our nation's ills by cosponsoring the HeLP Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on May 24, 2007, I inadvertently missed the vote on passage of H.R. 2317, the Lobbying Transparency Act, rollcall vote 420. It was my strong intention to vote "Aye" on passage.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
EDMUND M. O'BRIEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Edmund M. O'Brien, a resident of Connecticut's Second Congressional District, who is celebrating his 50th year as an ordained priest.

Devoting his life to the service of others, Father O'Brien has faithfully tended to the people of Connecticut as a pastor, teacher, principal, and friend.

Father O'Brien was ordained on February 2, 1957, after completing his education at the St. John Seminary in Boston. Over the past 50 years, he has served as a dedicated pastor and educator to many Connecticut congregations. Currently, he is pastor of St. Adalbert parish in Enfield and director of the parish school.

He once said of his profession, "a teacher affects eternity." As a counselor and consummate supporter of his students, Father O'Brien embodies the compassionate, nurturing, and dedicated values characteristic of our Nation's greatest educators.

A die hard fan of the celebrated Boston Red Sox, Father O'Brien is well-known for delivering score updates to his parishioners when a game has been inconveniently scheduled during a mass celebration.

I am honored to pay tribute to the Reverend Edmund M. O'Brien. Father O'Brien's dedication to his faith, his community, and the children under his care has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to myself and the residents of eastern Connecticut.

A TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE BETH
DAVID

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Beth David, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. In the past 60 years, the temple has grown into a vibrant community dedicated to the values of Judaism including spiritual discovery, educational richness, and the love and kindness of community and personal responsibility.

Founded by 10 families in 1947, Temple Beth David was the first reform synagogue in the San Gabriel Valley. The original founder, Flora Kahn, is still a member of the congregation. Since its inception, the temple has seen its membership grow to 195 families, spanning the generations. The community welcomes all Jews as well as interfaith couples and encourages non-Jewish spouses to participate in temple life.

Rabbi Alan Lachtman has been with the temple in his current position since 1976. A retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Army Reserves, Rabbi Lachtman has a degree in Marriage Family Therapy and received the Doctorate of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 1999. He currently teaches at the University of Judaism, and works closely with the Amer-

ican Jewish Committee and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

A dynamic and active temple, Temple Beth David encourages congregant participation and offers a wide variety of programs from interfaith programs and social action projects to religious and Hebrew schools. Demonstrating a commitment to all members of the community, Temple Beth David offers not only youth scholarships but also an array of adult education programs for those who seek a greater understanding of Judaism.

Committed participants not only in temple life but in the larger world as well, the members of Temple Beth David have recently joined the interfaith chorus calling for U.S. Government intervention in Darfur. Along with Rabbi Lachtman, the 195 families of the temple, mindful of their own community's history, are activists for the civilians in Darfur.

It is my privilege to honor Temple Beth David on its anniversary of 60 years of active community and fulfillment in Judaism. I ask all members to join me in wishing the Temple Beth David and its congregants continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT
J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the President of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of *Decision Sciences* and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems

engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the City of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising \$310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add \$90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add \$34 million to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the "R" in RIT means something. Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout Western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners or Livable Communities (2006), the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award (2005), the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award (2004), the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award (2001), and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. RICH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate one of South Carolina's

most faithful and dedicated church leaders as he retires from the ministry. Rev. Dr. James O. "J.O." Rich is a stalwart in upstate South Carolina where he has been the long-serving pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church and is the co-owner of Rich-Colonial Funeral Home.

J.O. was born in Sumter, SC, where he attended Lincoln High School and went on to earn a bachelor's in divinity from Morris College. His dedication to the ministry led him to earn a master's in divinity from the International Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA. He completed further study at the Lutheran Southern Seminary, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Morris College in 1975.

Dr. Rich truly committed himself to the teachings of the church and sought leadership positions to help share his faith with a wider audience. He served as president of Baptist education bodies on the State and national levels including the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Progressive National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Within in his own church, Dr. Rich helped expand the educational outreach opportunities. He oversaw the construction of St. Paul Baptist Church's Educational Center as a testament to the church's investment in spiritual and human growth. The center cost \$600,000 to build in 1977, but stands today as a central part of the community and the church's outreach ministries.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rich has been a lecturer and author as well. He has spoken on college and university campuses in South Carolina and across the Nation. He also served as the compilation editor of Foundations of Worship, a developmental meditation for families. Other publications by Dr. Rich include, Help, a study guide for Baptists, BTU Report, and articles in the Quiet Hour, the Worker, and In-Teen magazines.

His work and dedication are not just isolated to the church. Dr. Rich believes strongly in giving back to the community. He did so by serving as president of the Anderson Branch of the NAACP for more than 20 years. He chaired the City of Anderson Community Development Corporation, and is a member of the Alston Wilkes Society, Inc., the South Carolina Christian Action Council, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Governor Dick Riley recognized Dr. Rich's dedication and honored him with South Carolina's highest honor, the Palmetto Award. Governor Riley also appointed Dr. Rich to serve as the Third Congressional District's representative to the State Council on Maternal, Infant and Child Health. It was a position for which Governor Carroll Campbell re-appointed him.

In 1986, while serving as president of the Baptist E&M Convention of South Carolina, the Ford Foundation awarded the organization a \$180,000 grant to fight teenage pregnancy.

Housing issues are also very important to Dr. Rich. He served as the chairman of the Baptist Service Inc., the housing arm of the Baptist E&M Convention. And while serving as the moderator of the Rocky River Baptist Association, Dr. Rich initiated the building of the Rocky River Residential Care Home, a 60-unit complex for the elderly and handicapped in Anderson.

As a result of all his outstanding community service and dedication to the ministry, his

alma mater, Morris College, named one of its men's dormitories in his honor. He has also been the recipient of the Mamie L. Duckett Founder's Day Award given by Benedict College, the Jefferson Award conferred by WYFF-TV, the Howard McClain Christian Action Award issued by the Christian Action Council, and the Pastor of the Year Award granted by the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

His leadership of St. Paul Baptist Church has been an inspiration, and his accomplishments there are too numerous to mention. Yet throughout his service, his loving wife, Arabella, their children Stanley and Stephanie, and now their daughter-in-law Phyllis and grandson Stanford, have been fully supportive of his efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Rev. Dr. J.O. Rich for his tremendous service to his faith and his community. He is a living testament to the Bible's admonition "to whom much is given, much is required." Dr. Rich has been given extraordinary talents, and he has used them to honor his faith and his fellow man. I applaud the example he has set for others to follow, and wish him a wonderful retirement and Godspeed.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ESTABLISH A SUNSET FOR THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002 (PUBLIC LAW 107-243)

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish a sunset for the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq (P.L. 107-243). There are several active pieces of legislation that would rescind the authorization to use force against Iraq, but the approach of this legislation is quite different. This legislation would sunset the original authorization 6 months after it is enacted, which would give Congress plenty of time to consider anew the authority for Iraq.

The rationale for this sunset is that according to the 2002 authorization for Iraq, the President was authorized to use military force against Iraq to achieve the following two specific objectives only: "(1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and (2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq."

It should be obvious to both supporters and critics of our military action in Iraq that our military has achieved both legal objectives. Our military quickly removed the regime of Saddam Hussein, against whom the United Nations resolutions were targeted. And a government has been elected in post-Saddam Iraq that has met with U.S. approval, fulfilling the first objective of the authorization.

With both objectives of the original authorization completely satisfied, Congress has a constitutional obligation to revisit this issue and provide needed oversight and policy guidance. We ignore this obligation at risk to the United States and, very importantly, to our soldiers in harm's way in Iraq.

Unlike other proposals, this bill does not criticize the President's handling of the war. It does not cut off funds for the troops. Nor does this bill set a timetable for our withdrawal. I strongly believe that this legislation will enjoy broad support among both those in favor of our action in Iraq and those who favor ending the war, and I am encouraged by the bipartisan support I have received when seeking original cosponsors. Congress is obligated to consider anew the authority for Iraq sooner rather than later and I hope more of my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Air Corps' legendary Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious recognition that Federal lawmakers can bestow. Tuskegee Airmen, from Colorado, that received the Congressional Gold Medal include: James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith and William A. Walters.

The first African-American airmen unit in the U.S. military trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. A total of 450 Tuskegee Airmen served overseas on various missions. During WWII, the Airmen flew missions over North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Collectively, they flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 German planes, and disabled 150 German planes on the ground. Thirty-three Airmen were shot down and held as POWs, and 66 of the Airmen were killed.

The Tuskegee Airmen got their start in 1941 after the NAACP filed a lawsuit. President Franklin Roosevelt started the Army Air Corps training program as the first African-American training program. The Airmen were segregated from other units and endured blatant racism and discrimination while helping win World War II and change our Nation for the better. Their achievements helped contribute to the eventual integration of African-Americans into the military and also helped lead the way for further desegregation throughout the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith and William A. Walters for their patriotism and service to the United States of America. Their triumph over racism and discrimination, along with their outstanding service, is inspirational, and they are a source of pride for America and for all of Colorado. I wish them continued health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN
HEROES IN THE ARMED FORCES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on May 28, 2007, millions of Americans across the country recognized the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting to protect the citizens and freedom of our great Nation.

In recognition of Memorial Day, LT. Zach Alessi-Friedlander gave an address at a Memorial Day Ceremony at Hillside Cemetery in Wilton, Connecticut. I submit the text of LT. Alessi-Friedlander's remarks to be entered into the RECORD.

We come together on this solemn occasion to commemorate the sacrifice and celebrate the legacy of those Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen who have lost their lives while serving our great Nation.

When the leaders of the Wilton Memorial Day parade committee—especially Mr. Toothaker and Mr. Brautigam as well as Mr. Dartley of the VFW—invited me to speak at this ceremony, I embraced the opportunity because it would give me a forum through which to speak with you all about service—a truly timeless value that is integral to the vibrancy of our society. My purpose here today is to provide a Soldiers'-eye-view on the value of service—drawn not only from my own experiences but from those of the extraordinary Soldiers with whom I have had the great privilege of serving alongside.

Nine years ago, I was 17 years old and a week from my high school graduation. To me, the world seemed pregnant with opportunity and possibility. Over much of these last nine years, my personal journey has been largely defined by abstract intellectual pursuits—college, internships, and even a semester of graduate school. But in early 2004, I felt a growing sense of discomfort. So much was unfolding outside the classrooms and libraries in which I spent so much of my time. I was almost 23 and I felt the need to be a part of something that was larger and more important than me. I then made the decision to pursue a commission in the Army. At the time, in response to the queries of friends and family, I could only describe my motivations in an abstract sense. But over the last two and half years, the reasons for my decision to serve have been made clearer through the crucible of experience.

After attending Basic Training and Officer Candidate School, I was commissioned as a Field Artillery lieutenant. Sixty-five years ago, on the conventional battlefields of World War II, I would have been responsible for planning and coordinating the artillery, mortars, aerial firepower, and naval gunfire needed to support my troop commander's scheme of maneuver. However, the battlefields of Iraq are—at this stage of the war—decidedly different from their World War II counterparts. Conventional schemes of maneuver have been replaced with the unconventional strategies and tactics needed to manage an elusive and adaptive enemy within an asymmetric and three-dimensional battlefield. Coalition Forces are grappling with a multi-faceted insurgency—divided along different ethno-sectarian and ideological lines. The fight for key terrain and the push to force the enemy to formally surrender have been replaced with the fight for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi local nationals—the people upon whom the burden of a free and secure Iraq will ultimately rest.

What I'm talking about is our effort to diversify the scope of the "fight" in order to create a foundation upon which the Iraqi people can rebuild a society less vulnerable to virulent strands of militant Islam and sectarian antipathy. More specifically, we now complement our combat operations with four additional lines of operation: training Iraqi Security Forces; promoting local governance; restoring essential services; and developing the economy. This is a long, tough, unpredictable process that is at times frustrating and at other times exhilarating. Over the last nine months, my troop has been able to develop our sector through a strategy that depends fundamentally upon earning the genuine trust of the local nationals living within our sector. Many of you, I am sure, have heard about many of these new emphases—especially after the recent appointment of General David Petraeus as the new theater commander in Iraq. However, experiencing it on the ground is a truly perspective-altering experience. My unit's progress—especially over the past 5 months—has been startling. In this period, we have poured several million dollars worth of projects into the small villages dotting our sector—providing services like trash collection and replacing dilapidated infrastructure such as a drinking-water tower and power-line transformers. But our most successful-civil military initiatives have been those which have integrated our Soldiers, members of either the Iraqi Army or Iraqi National Police, and the local nationals into combined community projects. Examples of such initiatives include: two medical-assistance visits during which our medics and doctors were able to provide medicine, care, diagnoses, and treatment advice to almost 400 local nationals; as well as something called a "VET CAP" during which an Army veterinarian was able to treat and de-worm 150 sheep and 20 cows.

But, the civil-military initiatives of which I am most proud are the efforts that have enabled us to promote truly indigenous forms of self-government. In December, when we recognized that local nationals residing in our sector were unwilling to participate in the regional branches of the Iraqi government—called Nahia and Qada councils—we decided to host a series of village-level town-hall meetings. At these meetings, we were able to identify community leaders with the initiative, technical expertise, and will to represent the other members of the villages. These town-hall meetings served as jumping-off points for two major developments. A group of local nationals in our largest village now regularly attend the Nahia council meetings, which allows them to interface with the Iraqi government. But, perhaps more impressively, this same group created a Farmers' Cooperative, whose leaders now represent farmers from throughout our entire area of operations.

But, make no mistake, our unit has been forced to combat an adaptive, innovative, patient, and committed insurgent threat intent on disrupting our efforts through a series of persistent attacks against us and—perhaps more ominously—by casting a specter of fear over the local-national population whom we are attempting to secure and whose trust we are working to earn. Our military has been largely built and trained to fight high-intensity conflicts using technological superiority and mobility to combat nation states. My unit is a cavalry troop composed of field artilleryman, cavalry scouts, and infantrymen—all of whom were initially trained to play specific roles in a conventional fight. But, every day, I am amazed at how our Soldiers have been able to adapt to the changing nature of the fight.

My preceding remarks were an effort to provide the context necessary for you all to

appreciate the service of the Soldiers alongside whom I proudly serve. General Robert E. Lee once described duty—the close cousin of service—as the most sublime word in the English language. I would argue that he was trying to explain that duty and service as concepts are impossible to understand in an abstract intellectual sense; rather, in order to wrap our minds around this simple but crucial civic value, we need to discuss specific examples—and that will be the intent of the balance of my remarks.

The key to the success that my unit has experienced has been the influence of our extraordinary non-commissioned officers. For those of you with prior military experience, you know that at troop or company levels, NCOs have dramatically more time in service—and thus experience—than their commissioned-officer counterparts. Therefore, the key to a successful unit is to develop a synergy between the NCO and Officer Corps. Each officer-NCO pair must understand the role that the other plays in training, planning, and operations and must then work to complement their counterpart in every phase of mission preparation and execution. In my troop, the only Soldiers with previous combat experience are the NCOs. Two in particular come to mind: SFC Richardson and SSG Mont-Eton, the platoon sergeant and senior scout for our 2nd platoon—the element whom I would argue has helped to establish the model by which a counter-insurgency must be fought. Perhaps the most illuminating parts of my deployment have come while riding alongside SSG Monty in his truck. Over the course of any given patrol, he spends time instructing his gunner on how to more effectively scan the key pieces of terrain with his optics; teaching his driver on how to scan the road for the command-wire-IED initiators that are carefully concealed alongside the routes in our sector; and positioning his dismount on where he must stand to establish the most effective security when the platoon gets out of the trucks. But SSG Monty's true gift is his uncanny ability to establish rapport with the local nationals upon whose trust the entire troop depends in order to rebuild the communities and counter the insurgent threats. Smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee constantly, SSG Monty can approach any individual in our sector, and, within a matter of minutes, they are exchanging stories about their children or talking about how to improve water flow in a nearby irrigation canal. Never in my life, not at Columbia nor at Harvard, have I ever encountered an individual with more practical intelligence—with the ability to adapt doctrine or theory to a real-world operating environment, which, in our case, carries life and death significance. As for SFC Richardson, he is simply a force of nature. He is the tactical expert upon whom his platoon leader relies to carefully plan any deliberate operation. Riding in the 4-truck, the platoon's trail vehicle, he has managed the evacuation of all Soldiers injured on patrol with a sense of calm and poise that has allowed the platoon to address potentially catastrophic situations with the speed and efficiency needed to ensure the safety of all involved. The Soldiers in his platoon trust him implicitly and would literally follow him wherever he decided to go. He is the most senior Soldier in the entire troop, with even more years in service than our first sergeant; he has used this seniority to be the forceful and articulate voice on all Soldier issues. When his guys are smoked, he goes to my commander and first sergeant, and tells them the platoon needs a day of refit . . . and they listen. SFC Richardson was the one who insisted upon explaining to the local-national children, who gathered to receive their soccer

balls, why Nick's name had been inscribed on each of their gifts. Into his leadership style, SFC Richardson has managed to fold toughness, moral authority, compassion, and intelligence—or, more specifically, the ability to think critically about and to respond swiftly to unpredictable and challenging situations. And then there's the amazing symbiosis that my commander and first sergeant have been able to establish. They are the only command pair in my entire squadron not to have previously deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq since combat operations began in those places in 2001 and 2003, respectively. However, they have not allowed this relative inexperience to adversely affect our troop's operations. Rather, they have approached our campaign plan with a refreshing open-mindedness, rigorous planning process, and strict attention to detail that have helped to keep our Soldiers safe and our unit mission effective.

I have still only spoken in relatively general terms thus far, but I want to share with you a specific example from our deployment that I believe demonstrates the courage and discipline of our Soldiers and, more generally, illuminates the value of service. In mid-October, after only a month in our sector, our infantry platoon was conducting dismounted night-time reconnaissance of a piece of key terrain. The 8-man dismounted element had just embarked on their patrol when their senior scout, SSG Hurlbutt, stepped on an anti-tank mine. He was blown off the ground and sent hurtling 15 feet through the air into a reed-choked and half-filled irrigation canal. Without hesitating, the dismounted team leader, SGT Love, and one of the other members of the patrol, SPC Conolly, immediately jumped into the canal and extracted—up its steep and slippery banks—their severely injured platoon mate—who, between the weight of his body, protective armor, weapon, and gear weighed more than 300 pounds. While they administered first aid, the platoon leader, 1LT Kimes, who was the trail man in the patrol, positioned the balance of the element in a security perimeter and coordinated for the MEDEVAC. (And, this provides me with an opportunity to praise again the technical skill and courage of Chief Reeves and the other MEDEVAC pilots upon us guys on the ground constantly rely.) Some people may be inclined to attribute the way in which the “rock lizards” were able to handle this situation to their training, but I am more inclined to attribute it to their courage and commitment to one another. As for SSG Hurlbutt, he is an extraordinary Soldier among many extraordinary Soldiers. Just prior to the deployment, he was given the option of deploying late or not deploying at all in order to care for his wife, who had only recently recovered from a very serious illness. Despite his concern for his wife, he declined the offer, understanding that his previous combat experience and deep knowledge were essential to helping his platoon transition to operations in theater. And then, in January, when my commander returned to Fort Drum, where my unit is based, for his mid-tour leave, he visited SSG Hurlbutt, who is still recovering from his injuries. In the months between sustaining the injury and my commander's visit, SSG Hurlbutt had received skin grafts to replace the skin and tissue destroyed by the mine's intense heat and he was undergoing excruciating physical therapy to recover from the chunk of flesh and muscle that he lost from his left thigh. Despite all this and despite the fact that he was barely ambulatory at the time of my commander's visit, he amazingly started campaigning to return to sector before we redeployed.

And then there's SPC Jonathan Cadavero. SPC Cadavero was my good friend and we

were in the same company at Officer Candidate School. Throughout the first half of the course, he began to have reservations about continuing his pursuit of an officer's commission—but never once questioned his desire to serve. After successfully completing the land-navigation course and receiving top marks on his academic testing and leadership evaluations, he recognized that he had met and exceeded the standards required to become an officer. He then felt that he could leave Officer Candidate School without feeling that he was dodging a challenge. He decided that he preferred to fulfill his obligations to the Army as an enlisted medic rather than as an officer, which meant less pay and decision-making authority; but, he did not care about that; he simply wanted to serve his country in Iraq. I remember having long conversations with him about his decision in our barracks at Ft Benning. I told him that he needed to make the decision with which he felt most comfortable; either way, he would have the opportunity to serve—a motivation we both proudly shared and embraced. The next time we met was at Bradley's, the tailor shop just outside of Ft Drum; we were both having nametapes sewn on our boonie caps, assault packs, and ruck sacks in preparation for the deployment of our brigade. We talked informally about our families; about finally being in the regular Army after more than a year in various Army schools; about the long and challenging deployment that hovered on the horizon. Over the next 6 months, we met randomly on Camp Striker—at the gym, at the chow hall, around our living quarters—each time sharing warm conversation, sometimes about the Army, but usually just about baseball. On February 27th, while acting as the platoon medic for a route-clearance element operating in support of my unit's sister troop, he was killed when an IED detonated under the truck in which he was riding. This device was buried deep under the paved surface of the road on which he was traveling, and, when it detonated, it completely destroyed his truck and killed all of the occupants. I remember seeing his name listed among the casualties. At first, everything seemed to collapse with the pain I felt for his loss, for his family, friends, and fellow Soldiers. And then everything seemed to explode in a rush of memories—wandering through the woods of Ft Benning in our desperate attempts to find our points on the land-navigation course or cracking jokes before the dreaded arrival of our supervisors at the ridiculous light-out ritual each night. I remember his distinctive New York accent, his infectious smile, his wit, his intelligence, his unwavering desire to serve his country as a Soldier during wartime. His sacrifice and sense of duty should be an inspiration to his fellow Soldiers and to the country he proudly served, but these are no comfort to his family and friends. The memory of his loss is still too fresh. The loss of each service member sends ripples of pain throughout communities; those closest to him are touched in a way that is impossible for most of us to imagine. Most can sympathize but not really empathize. This is the fundamental challenge of Memorial Day: once a year, we have the opportunity to congregate as a community and as a society to commemorate their sacrifice—but perhaps more importantly—to celebrate their legacy. I would encourage everyone to find the name of an individual Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor, who has lost their life while serving their country; give that name and the magnitude of their sacrifice specific attention. This will help us to humanize the sacrifice that spans generations. This sacrifice and service connect us all in a tragic but crucial narrative. Ours is a country built upon the value of service and

it should be celebrated—even if it must be done with a somber tone and painful heart. I know that on every Memorial Day from this day forward, I'll take the opportunity to reflect on the life and sacrifice of SPC Cadavero.

Rare is this profession of arms for its whole essence is built upon a foundation of specifically conceptualized values that are intended to discipline individual Soldiers into a coherent and selfless team. The only constants that Soldiers will ever have are the support of their fellow Soldiers, the value of their service, and the appreciation of the grateful nation whom they serve. Soldiers have always been asked to sacrifice their comforts and desires for the sake of the team and for the mission. Unlike the civilian world, Soldiers are required to see their commitment through to the end regardless of the extenuating circumstances that may arise after making the oath of enlistment or commission. I am awed by the courage and service of my Soldiers, by their ability to manage their myriad personal and family concerns while negotiating the constant threats to their safety that lurk ominously every time we leave the wire in Iraq. The purpose of Memorial Day is for our nation to recognize and express their appreciation for this service, in general, and the sacrifice of those that have lost their lives while serving, more specifically. I ask only that we, as a community, embrace this opportunity to contemplate seriously what this service and sacrifice have meant in the development of our country and in the expression of our shared values.

HONORING GEOFFREY SEFFENS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Geoffrey Seffens for 32 years of dedicated service to the Fairfax County Public School system.

After graduating from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music in Ohio, Mr. Seffens began his career as an elementary band teacher in Northern Virginia. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Mr. Seffens spent his first 4 years as a teacher engaging students from five different schools. Not only did he rise to this challenge but he pushed himself even further, teaching more than 400 students from nine schools over the course of the next 2 years. Mr. Seffens's hard work was recognized in 1979 when he was selected as the new band director at Lanier Middle School. Ever since joining the faculty at Lanier, Mr. Seffens has continued to guide students towards musical achievement while becoming an indispensable member of the school's community.

As a native of Northern Virginia and a product of the Fairfax County Public School system himself, Mr. Seffens and his successful teaching career stand as a testament to the region's firm commitment to academic excellence. Upon his retirement after years of commendable work, Mr. Seffens will certainly be missed by students and faculty alike.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Seffens's steadfast devotion to raising the standard of musical education and personally thank him for his dedication to the Fairfax County Public

School system. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Geoffrey Steffens for his service to our Nation and wishing him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, and 439 because I was attending my daughter's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"No" on rollcall 431, H. Res. 435—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2446, Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 432, H.R. 1716—Green Energy Education Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 433, H.R. 632—To authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy;

"No" on rollcall 434, H.R. 964—Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 435, H.R. 2446—Kirk Amendment;

"No" on rollcall 436, H.R. 2446—Kucinich Amendment;

"Yes" on rollcall 437, H.R. 2446—Motion to Recommit with Instructions Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 438, H.R. 2446—Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"No" on rollcall 439, H.R. 2560—Human Cloning Prohibition Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE CENTER ON HALSTED

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Center on Halsted, a new gay and lesbian community center at 3656 N. Halsted, in the heart of the northside of the Fifth District. This new facility will give the surrounding community a state of the art building for youth services, mental health services and community/cultural programming and more.

The Center on Halsted has actually served Chicago's gay and lesbian community for more than three decades. Unfortunately, though, they had to make do with temporary facilities for a number of years. Today, the community has a place to call home.

This grand opening has been a long time in coming, with planning dating back to 2001. I am proud to have worked closely with the leadership at the Center on Halsted, Mayor Daley, Alderman Tunney, and many other local leaders to make the dream of a new center a reality.

The Center on Halsted focuses their programming into three areas: mental health,

youth and community outreach, and cultural programming. One of the center's goals is to provide role models for young members of the gay and lesbian community.

The three-story facility is a proud home for a proud community, and the end product is almost as remarkable as the hard work of all the people who made it happen. The roof deck, computer lab, theater facilities, Whole Foods, café, and more will make the Center on Halsted a welcoming location for its neighbors and an engine for economic development on the northside of Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled that the Center on Halsted has opened its doors. I want to congratulate everyone involved on a job well done, and I know the center will be an important part of Chicago for a long time to come.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the president of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of *Decision Sciences* and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These

new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the city of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising \$310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add \$90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add \$34 to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the "'R' in RIT means something." Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of the Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners for Livable Communities—2006, the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award—2005, the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award—2004, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award—2001, and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-

long celebration. This year Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 9th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 10th.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community.

This year's theme, "Together we can, Together we will," holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Washingtonians live in distinct diverse neighborhoods such as Colonial Village to the North, Fort Drum to the South, Northeast Boundary to the East, and Spring Valley to the West. Together we can unite in our quest for all the rights guaranteed U.S. citizens by the Constitution.

In 1994 the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House and this right was re-established under Speaker NANCY PELOSI. Our city of 550,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled full voting rights in the House and the Senate. On April 19, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1905, The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007. The measure is now before the Senate and is an important milestone on DC's road to full and equal representation.

This one success is a reminder of the pending legislation that the 110th Congress must pass: The Clarification of Federal Employment Protections Act, The Early Treatment for HIV Act, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Responsible Education About Life Act, The Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, and The Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING LIUNA LOCAL 777

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to commemorate a significant milestone and to commend the leadership of the Laborers International Union of North America, LIUNA, Local 777 and its International Union, for their unyielding dedication to fight for the rights of working Americans.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the county workers in Riverside County joining LIUNA Local 777.

Thanks to the profound efforts and devotion of the original organizing committee and sub-

sequent rank and file leaders, Local 777 has become a powerful, dynamic, and active organization committed to improving the quality of life for workers.

Local 777 continues to grow today. From its humble roots of 57 founding members working for the City of Indio in 1993, Local 777 boasts a current membership of nearly 9,000.

LIUNA's membership, which includes workers in the health sector, construction, mail handlers, school employees, higher education employees, and more, have had a positive impact on the community in Riverside, and throughout the whole state of California.

The organization has remained dedicated to their mission of ensuring hard-working Americans are given fair wages, good benefits, a safe work environment, and a chance to fulfill the American dream.

Besides protecting worker's rights, LIUNA also is very active in communities throughout California. The organization sponsors informative training, education, and safety programs that benefit all citizens.

It is with great pride that I recognize the Laborers International Union Local 777 of Riverside County. On this important anniversary, we rise to thank them for all they do to protect working American families.

TRIBUTE TO MONUMENTS MEN AND WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on this 63rd anniversary of D-day, I am proud to pay tribute to the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program, MFAA, under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and other priceless artifacts in Europe and Asia during and following World War II.

That is why I am proud to be a sponsor of H. Con. Res. 48, which provides much needed recognition to the "Monuments Men and Women" who did so much to preserve many of the world's great cultural treasures.

Without their dedication and service, many more of the world's artistic and historic treasures would have been destroyed or lost forever amidst the chaos and destruction of World War II.

I wish to give special thanks and appreciation to the "Monuments Men" for establishing the precedent of protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and by setting a standard not just for one country, but for people of all nations to acknowledge and uphold.

In 1943, the United States Government established the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas to promote and coordinate the protection and salvage of works of art and cultural and historical monuments and records in countries occupied by Allied armies during World War II. The chairman of the Commission was Supreme Court Associate Justice Owen J. Roberts.

In connection with the establishment of the Roberts Commission, the Monuments, Fine

Arts, and Archives program, MFAA, was established under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces.

The Roberts Commission and the MFAA provide an example for other countries, working in conjunction with the United States, to develop similar programs. More than 100 foreign MFAA personnel, representing at least 17 countries, contributed to this international effort.

The MFAA was comprised of both men and women, commissioned officers and civilians, who were appointed or volunteered to serve as representatives of the Roberts Commission and as the official guardians of some of the world's greatest artistic and cultural treasures.

Members of the MFAA, called the "Monuments Men," often joined frontline military forces and some even lost their lives in combat during World War II. For years following the Allied victory in World War II, members of the MFAA worked tirelessly to locate, identify, catalogue, restore, and repatriate priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts, including masterpieces by Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Vermeer, that had been stolen or sequestered by the Axis powers.

The heroic actions of the MFAA in saving priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts for future generations cannot be overstated. It set a moral precedent and established standards, practices, and procedures for the preservation, protection, and restitution of artistic and cultural treasures in future armed conflicts.

Members of the MFAA went on to become renowned directors and curators of preeminent international cultural institutions, including the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, as well as professors at institutions of higher education, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, New York University, Williams College, and Columbia University.

Other members of the MFAA were founders, presidents, and members of associations, such as the New York City Ballet, the American Association of Museums, the American Association of Museum Directors, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Society of Architectural Historians, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as respected artists, architects, musicians, and archivists.

Madam Speaker, it bears repeating that the heroic actions of the MFAA in saving priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts for future generations cannot be overstated. It established the standards, practices, and procedures for the preservation, protection, and saved for the world artistic and cultural treasures of inestimable value.

I salute the "Monuments Men and Women," who by their example provide further proof of why we call theirs the "Greatest Generation."

MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mental Health

Care for Our Wounded Warriors Act of 2007. This important legislation will address the significant mental health care issues faced by our brave service men and women.

According to recent reports from the Government Accountability Office, 22 percent of returning OEF/OIF service members were referred for further mental health evaluations for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and an estimated one in six service members will receive a diagnosis of PTSD.

As a member of the Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, I have been working hard to understand how mental health issues, especially PTSD, are affecting our service men and women. We know that PTSD and TBI are the signature injuries of this war.

Unfortunately, the DoD has neither the facilities nor the personnel to meet the needs of returning service members with mental health care diagnoses. We have no research clearinghouse to study and facilitate mental health services and develop effective mental health care policies.

The Mental Health for Our Wounded Warriors Act, a companion to legislation introduced by Senator LIEBERMAN, will establish Centers of Excellence within the DoD to research strategies to prevent, identify and treat combat related mental health injuries.

Equally as important, each center will seek to develop strategies to counter the stigma that surrounds PTSD and mental health in general in the military.

The bill will also include language on treating mental health professionals who are exposed to combat related stress, as well as study the unique needs of female service members serving in combat situations.

The military needs help dealing with this very complex issue. We cannot expect our service members to go out and do the job they do without providing adequate mental health services we know they will need.

The battle against combat-related mental health injuries will be an ongoing issue. It is our obligation to provide the resources necessary to address the absence of a designated center to study the mental health care needs of service members and to provide a solution to the shortage of DoD mental health professionals.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KLING, SR.

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and celebrate the life of Huntsville businessman, Mr. William Kling, Sr.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling and his wife Margaret Anne "Peggy" Rothschild moved to Huntsville in 1950 and formed the Valley Pride Packing Company. Prior to his retirement in 1966, Mr. Kling served as president of the Alabama Meat Packers Association and as a member of the board of directors for the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the American Meat Institute.

In addition to his leadership in state and local business communities, Mr. Kling shared his kindness and vision to help nurture the cultural development of our region. After his retirement, Mr. Kling became the first individual

to serve 3 consecutive years as president of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. Under his leadership, the Von Braun Center, a world-class concert hall and entertainment center, was constructed. For more than 25 years, the Von Braun Center has hosted numerous internationally acclaimed musical performances and events.

Mr. Kling also served as a member of the first Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority. During his time with the authority, he played an influential role in the establishment of the Huntsville International Airport. This airport has since become an economic engine for north Alabama and it continues to support our region's remarkable growth.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling passed away in November 2006. He was a successful businessman, humanitarian, and civic leader. His willingness to help others and dedication to his community is an inspiration for all in north Alabama and across the country to follow. I rise today to celebrate his life and honor his achievements, which continue to have a profound impact on north Alabama today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on May 17 through May 22 I missed votes due to my being out of the country to conduct oversight of our operations in Iraq.

Had I been present for rollcall 378, the Bachus Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 379, the Hensarling Amendment No. 29 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 380, the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 381, the Kanjorski Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 382, the Roskam Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 383, the Garrett Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 384, H.R. 698, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 385, H.R. 1425, the Staff Sergeant Marvin Rex Young Post Office Building, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 386, the Feeney Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 387, the Price (GA) Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 388, the Sessions Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal

Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 389, the Brady Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 390, the Price (GA) Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 391, the Doolittle Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 392, the Hensarling Amendment No. 30 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 393, the Neugebauer Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 394, the Neugebauer Amendment No. 4 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 395, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 396, on final passage of H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 397, S. 214, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 398, H.R. 2264, the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 399, S. 1104, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 400, H.R. 2399, the Alien Smuggling and Terrorism Prevention Act, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 401, H.R. 1722, the Leonard W. Herman Post Office, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall 402, a motion to table H. Res. 428, I would have voted "no."

IN HONOR OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 25th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County, founded in 1982. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, and its Santa Cruz County chapter has served over 3,000 children in the last 25 years.

For more than a quarter century this organization has created and nurtured one-on-one mentoring relationships between children and carefully screened adult mentors. The shared experiences between a Big Brother or Big Sister and his or her Little Brother or Sister have a documented Positive outcome in the child's life.

Research and anecdotal evidence show that Little Brothers and Sisters are less likely to do drugs, drink alcohol, skip school, or engage in

acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, more success at school, and better relationships with their friends and family.

In their testimonials, Big Brothers and Big Sisters also report a positive impact on their life. They say that they find a sense of purpose and satisfaction by helping and mentoring a young child through the difficulties of growing up. They value their experiences as highly as we value their service to the community. Thus, these relationships benefit everyone involved, including the mentor, the child, the family, and the community.

Through its One-on-One Mentoring Program and After-School Enrichment and Mentoring Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters nurtures children as they grow up both socially and academically. The After-School Enrichment program assists children in their academic life by providing after-school tutoring in an array of topics including math, science, and writing. Additionally, the program brings in guest speakers to discuss issues involving academic, social, and leadership development.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and staff who give their time and commitment to this wonderful program. Without their support, this program would not have been able to achieve the level of success it has over the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, on this joyous and historic occasion, it gives me great pleasure to present the congratulations of my colleagues in the House to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOAN REPAYMENT EQUITY TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "District of Columbia Loan Repayment Equity Technical Amendment Act of 2007." This bill will ensure that underserved communities in the District of Columbia have access to adequate health care services in selected health professional shortage areas, HPSAs, identified by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under the State Loan Repayment Program, as Congress intended. This bill does not involve any new funds. It will make the District eligible to receive assistance through the Public Health Service Act grants system, as would already be the case if the District had a matching program. Until 2006 there was no matching program in the District thus making it ineligible to apply for assistance. This bill is revenue neutral. Adding the District of Columbia to this program will not have any effect on federal funding because the District will be required to compete for the Federal funds exactly as every other State competes for the grants.

The State Loan Repayment Program, SLRP, was implemented in 1987 in response to Section 3381 of the Public Health Service Act, which authorizes the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to States to help recruit and retain primary health care professionals in HPSAs. Under the State Loan Repayment

Program, clinicians provide primary care health services in HPSAs in exchange for funds for the repayment of their qualifying educational loans. These individuals are fully trained and licensed primary health care clinicians dedicated to meeting the health care needs of medically underserved communities.

Under the State Loan Repayment Program, grants are made to States to operate their own loan repayment programs. Primary care health professionals who are providing a minimum of 2 years of full-time clinical services in public or non-profit facilities located in HPSAs are eligible to apply for a loan repayment. The State Loan Repayment Program is a collaboration of Federal, State, and community efforts. The Federal Government provides up to 50 percent of the funds to make loan repayment funds to primary health care professionals. The remaining 50 percent of the funding comes from State and local community resources.

The District of Columbia has 13.8 percent underinsured residents compared to 15.7 percent of individuals that are uninsured across the country. Approximately 17 percent of non-elderly adults and 10.4 percent of children are uninsured.

Today, millions of Americans lack access to health insurance. In 2005, more than 46 million persons were uninsured for the entire year. There are several reasons for the lack of health coverage for Americans among all uninsured persons under age 65, more than half were underprivileged and 34 percent lacked health coverage.

Improving the health care system is a huge priority for Congress. The Institute of Medicine found that the insurance status of parents affects the amount of health care that their children receive. By amending the Public Health Service Act, this bill would provide eligibility to the District of Columbia for the State Loan Repayment Program. It is extremely important that underserved populations have access to primary health services regardless of their low-income status. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

SABINOSO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sabinoso Wilderness Act of 2007. New Mexico is filled with extraordinary landscapes and, as a representative of this beautiful State, it is an honor to work to conserve these scenic and historic areas for future generations. One of New Mexico's special places is the Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area. Last year, I had the opportunity to explore this unique area on horseback. While traveling through deep canyons covered with indigenous trees such as piñon-juniper, cottonwood, willow, and ponderosa pine, it was evident that Sabinoso is an exceptional setting that deserves to be protected and accessible to all. That is why I am introducing legislation to designate as wilderness the lands in and near the Sabinoso WSA.

The Sabinoso WSA comprises approximately 20,000 acres and is situated in San

Miguel County, 40 miles east of Las Vegas, NM, and 25 miles northwest of Conchas Dam State Park. Roaming the canyons last year, I was struck by the ecological, scenic and recreational values of the area. Sabinoso overlies a thick section of colorful sedimentary rocks, typical of desert rock formations throughout the West. The area's scenic and densely vegetated landscape is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife, such as red-tailed hawks, western scrub-jays, broad-tailed hummingbirds, mule deer, bobcats, and gray foxes. All of these natural resources will provide outstanding opportunities to hunt, hike, horseback ride, take photographs, and simply experience the unspoiled lands of our ancestors.

During the 2007 session of the New Mexico State Legislature, House Memorial 53, which calls on the New Mexico congressional delegation to support the establishment of the Sabinoso Wilderness Area, was introduced by State Representative Thomas Garcia and passed unanimously by a vote of 66–0.

Unfortunately, this beautiful piece of land is currently inaccessible to the general public. Designating the area will help open it to everyone and provide access to all of these activities. Opening Sabinoso will also create important new economic development opportunities for the surrounding communities. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and creating the Sabinoso Wilderness Area so that everyone will be able to experience its natural and unique beauty for generations to come.

RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD "NUB" PORTERFIELD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arnold G. "Nub" Porterfield of Bluefield, WV. Arnold was a special and caring man whose commitment to his community could only be rivaled by his commitment to his family. He was a loving son, a loving husband, brother, and uncle. He was, in short, a loving man.

Anyone who knew Arnold, or "Nub" as those closest to him referred to him, could not help but be touched by his generous and caring nature. He took a special interest in the lives of others, and he often made those lives a part of his own. He had an uncanny ability to connect with people, to make them feel comfortable in his presence. He was a good friend and a great man.

Arnold was very dedicated to his country and his community. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and served with distinction in both World War II and the Korean war. He served the city of Bluefield, WV as a postmaster, a fireman, and as the chief of police. His commitment to his community exemplified the motto of the Marine Corps, "semper fidelis", always faithful.

After retiring from this distinguished career, Nub dedicated his life to spreading his love of books and opened the Appalachian Bookstore in Bluefield. He was a man who loved to read and had a deep desire to share that passion with others. When Nub decided to retire, he

donated the contents of his bookstore, an estimated 40,000 volumes, to a very grateful Concord College Foundation.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to ask this great body to reflect for a moment to honor the life of a great man, faithful husband and father, and an honorable American. As the Lord called his servant home; his generosity, compassion, and commitment to his community will live on forever in the memories of all who had the high honor knowing Arnold "Nub" Porterfield.

TRIBUTE TO THE 440TH AIRLIFT WING BASED IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 440th Airlift Wing's long and distinguished history. It was formed in 1943 at Baer Field in Indiana, but has been based at General Mitchell International Airport—Air Reserve Station located in the Fourth Congressional District, since 1957. The airport and Air Reserve Station are both named in honor of Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, the Milwaukeean who is considered the "father" of the modern Air Force.

After moving to Milwaukee, the 440th Troop Carrier Group became the 440th Airlift Wing and in 1967, underwent another name change becoming the Reserve Tactical Airlift Wing. The 440th has received many honors including: the Air Force Association's Outstanding Reserve Unit during 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1968; the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, 1968: 14 Feb—11 Mar for airlift operations to the Vietnam Theater; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period Oct 1985—30 Sep 1987; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 2 Oct 1992—2 Oct 1993; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 Jun 1997—30 Sep 1998; and in 1998 received the highest score for a Reserve Unit in two years. In 1989, the 440th was equipped with eight new C-130s. The first C-130H was dubbed "The Spirit of Wisconsin."

The 440th has performed admirably in virtually every US combat theater and tactical operation including: the Cuban Missile Crisis; Vietnam Conflict; Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf States; and was the first wing unit to deploy members on Anti-Terror Operations after the September 11, 2001 assault on America. In fact, "The Flying Badgers" have been constantly available to provide airlift support, superb aircraft maintenance and security training and support.

In 2006 the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) ordered the 440th to be reassigned to Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. Flight operations in Milwaukee will end in June, 2007 and will resume at the Wing's new location at Pope AFB.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to the 440th for their stellar performance, dedication and service to my district and to the nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
ARTHUR C. NERIANI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the D-Day invasion, I rise today to honor the service and valor of all veterans, and especially the contributions of Arthur Neriani, who served bravely in World War II.

The son of two Italian immigrants, Arthur Neriani grew up in Avon, CT, when Avon was still considered a farm town. As a young man, Art spent much of his time with a group of 15 boys from the same neighborhood. Organized by Gildo Consolini, the boys played softball on a local team called the Avon Tigers. Bonded through friendship and love of country, 14 of these young men went on to serve their country during World War II.

At the age of 21, Art's name was at the top of the list at the Draft Board 2B in Unionville. As the first from the Farmington Valley to be drafted, Art's unique status was covered in the Hartford Courant. In 1940, Art joined the National Guard, Company M, 169th Regiment, 43rd Division in New Britain. In 1941, the division was federalized and sent to train in Camp Blanding in Starke, FL. After his year of service was almost complete on December 7, 1941, it was soon made clear he was not going home. Soon after Pearl Harbor, all of the soldiers at Camp Blanding were asked to sign up for Officer Candidate School. It was not Corporal Neriani, but rather a friend, who signed Art's name in for consideration. Of the 26 candidates who stepped forward, only 2 were accepted—one of which was Art Neriani. After completion of candidate school, Art arrived on the beaches of Normandy as the 2nd Lieutenant of the 8th Infantry Division on July 4, 1944, referred to as D plus 28 (28 days after D-Day).

In 1945, after the gruesome battle in Huertgen Forest, Germany, Officer Neriani received a battlefield promotion from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant. When he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his leadership and courage in battle he refused it. He felt he had not earned the decoration. To him, this type of honor and recognition was better served in honoring the other men—the ones who paid the greatest sacrifice with their lives.

1st Lt. Neriani battled through Europe, liberated German and Polish political prisoners from Nazi concentration camps, and reached the end of the war when meeting with Russian allies in May 1945. Of the 14 servicemen from Avon that were sent to war, all but one returned home—Gildo Consolini. It is in honor of him that the Avon's Veterans of Foreign War Post is named.

A man of honor and courage, Captain Neriani saw many battles, lost friends and brothers, and was one of many to bring freedom to Europe. We owe our veterans, those here and now gone, this country's greatest debt of gratitude. I call on my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to men like Art Neriani—to the dedicated men and women in our military who proudly serve this Nation and protect our freedom.

THE JUBILEE ACT OF 2007

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007. This bill will expand existing debt cancellation programs for the world's poorest countries and ensure that the benefits from debt cancellation will not be eroded by future lending to these impoverished nations.

Existing debt cancellation programs have freed up resources to reduce poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. Cameroon is using its savings of \$29.8 million from debt cancellation in 2006 for national poverty reduction priorities, including infrastructure, social sector and governance reforms. Uganda is using its savings of \$57.9 million on improving energy infrastructure to ease acute electricity shortages, as well as primary education, malaria control, healthcare, and water infrastructure. Zambia is using its savings of \$23.8 million to increase spending on agricultural projects and to eliminate fees for healthcare in rural areas. However, there are many needy and deserving poor countries that have yet to benefit from the cancellation of their debts.

The Jubilee Act will make 67 of the world's poorest countries eligible for complete debt cancellation by the United States, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other bilateral and multilateral creditors. In order to receive debt cancellation, the governments of these countries will be required to allocate the savings from debt cancellation towards spending on poverty-reduction programs. They will also have to engage interested parties within their societies, including a broad cross-section of civil society groups, in the spending allocation process; produce an annual report on this spending; and make it publicly available.

Countries would be excluded from receiving debt cancellation under the Jubilee Act if they have an excessive level of military expenditures; provide support for acts of international terrorism; fail to cooperate on international narcotics control matters; or engage in a consistent pattern of human rights violations. Countries also would be excluded if they lack transparent and effective budget execution and public financial management systems to ensure that the savings from debt cancellation would be spent on reducing poverty.

The Jubilee Act will establish a framework for responsible lending in order to preserve the benefits that debt cancellation has provided to poor countries and their people. The Jubilee Act requires the United States Secretary of the Treasury to take action to end the predatory practices of "vulture funds," private investment funds that buy up the debts of poor countries at reduced prices just before these countries receive debt cancellation and then sue these countries to recover the original value of the debts plus interest. Finally, the Jubilee Act will require the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and promote policies to prevent bilateral and private creditors from eroding the benefits of debt cancellation through irresponsible or exploitive lending.

The Jubilee Act will expand debt cancellation to all needy and deserving poor countries

and preserve the benefits that debt cancellation has provided to impoverished people worldwide. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation to reduce poverty through much needed debt cancellation reforms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, because I was voting in elections in the State of New Jersey I was not in attendance on June 5th. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 426, "yea" on rollcall No. 427, "yea" on rollcall No. 428, "yea" on rollcall No. 429, and "yea" on rollcall No. 430.

IN HONOR OF FREDERIC "BUZZ" EDWARD RAINER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frederic "Buzz" Edward Rainer, an exceptional teacher and coach who passed away May 11, 2007. Buzz lived his life to its fullest and fought with passion. I offer his wife Barbara, sons Ted and Scott, and daughter Grace, my sincerest condolences.

Buzz grew up in Claremont, CA, and graduated from Claremont High School. He met his wife of 54 years, Barbara, in the 6th grade and they were later married in 1952. Buzz attended the University of Southern California where he earned a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Education. He was active in sports, especially track, where he set school records. After gaining his Master's, Buzz and Barbara moved to Carmel, CA, where Buzz began a long and passionate career as a teacher and coach. Buzz taught at Carmel High School for 33 devoted years and 8 years at The York School in Monterey. He coached a range of sports at Carmel High including football, track, basketball, and golf.

Buzz's teaching career was extensive and was not confined to the Monterey Bay. In 1963 he took a one year sabbatical to Cambridge University in England and later in 1978 he spent a year at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Taking a 2-year leave of absence from Carmel High School in 1967, Buzz taught English at the American Community School of Athens in Greece. His love for teaching was truly a gift and he was often caught saying "I never really worked a day in my life."

He had a passion for using his gift of poetry to motivate school spirit and its athletic teams. I remember, during my school years, Coach Rainer getting all the "jocks" in his class and turning them into English majors. He knew how to put passions to words, and meaning to learning, that no one ever forgot. He was a teacher who challenged students to think and to commit their thoughts to action.

Not only was Buzz an extraordinary teacher and coach, but he was also an involved figure in the community. He was an active member of the Diogenes Club, the Knights of the Vine, and the local International Club of Carmel. Serving as a volunteer for the Carmel Highlands Fire Dept. was just another hobby of Buzz's and he was later appointed to their Board of Directors.

However, Buzz's greatest gift and passion in life was his love for literature. He composed hundreds of poems and recited them to his many friends. A great accomplishment of Buzz's was having one of his beautiful poems published in a book illustrated by Eldon Dedini. He had been writing two books as well. One of the books was about the joy he received from being a teacher; inspired from hundreds of letters he's received from past students describing the impact he's made on them.

Madam Speaker, Frederic "Buzz" Edward Rainer lived a life that we can all be envious of. Through his admirable life, our community grew greater and stronger with every person that Buzz came in contact with. His love of life, and of people, will be remembered by all. Buzz may no longer be with us but his memory will carry on in all those whose lives that Buzz touched. I am honored to have been able to have had him as my coach at Carmel High School and to have known such an extraordinary person.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG C. MELLO,
PHD, 2006 NOBEL LAUREATE IN
PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares today to vote on final passage of S.5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, I am again reminded of the extraordinary contributions one of my constituents has made to the life sciences. Dr. Craig C. Mello of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts won the 2006 Nobel Prize in the field of Physiology or Medicine for his revolutionary discovery of RNA interference and the gene silencing process. Earlier this year, the University of Massachusetts Medical School honored its most famous faculty member with a tribute that I was regretfully unable to attend. However, on May 2 I had the distinct privilege of introducing Dr. Mello at a luncheon for all of the 2006 Nobel Laureates hosted by my colleagues and the Science Coalition here in the Capitol.

It seems only fitting on this historic day in the United States House of Representatives that I humbly submit for the RECORD my introduction of Dr. Mello at that recent program. I do this not only to highlight his achievement but to also to emphasize the fact that this vitally important research is being led by America's most brilliant, thoughtful and committed scientists who are dedicated to improving the lives of all people everywhere.

CONGRESSMAN JAMES P. MCGOVERN—
INTRODUCTION OF CRAIG C. MELLO, PHD.

Good afternoon. I want to begin by thanking all of my colleagues who are here today

and, in particular, Chairman Bart Gordon and Congressman McNerney for their work in organizing this Nobel Laureate Luncheon as well as the House Resolution honoring our distinguished guests. I also want to thank the Science Coalition for their assistance in coordinating this program and all of the activities our Nobel Laureates are participating in today.

You know, if you work in this building long enough you come in contact with some very impressive people; world leaders, movie actors, artists, authors and every kind of celebrity.

Well, I've now worked in this building for more than half my life—fourteen years as an aide to the late Congressman Joe Moakley and ten years as a member of Congress myself—and I'm here to tell you that few people have impressed me more than Dr. Craig Mello. That's not just because he is my constituent and works at the finest medical school—public or private—in the world, the University of Massachusetts Medical School in my hometown of Worcester. It is also not just because Craig Mello and I have so much in common. We are both tall with full heads-of-hair as you can tell. Notwithstanding these similarities, I am—in all seriousness—very proud to be here today to introduce and congratulate Dr. Mello for far less obvious but much more important reasons.

He and his colleague, Dr. Andrew Fire, have blown open a whole new field of biomedical research with their revolutionary discovery of RNA interference and the gene silencing process. Together, they have brought renewed hope to millions of people who are suffering from countless debilitating diseases and genetic disorders. The potential for new therapies for cancer, heart disease, and diabetes among several other diseases has never been greater as a result of their extraordinary achievement.

In fact, their research may one day even have the added benefit of helping one of Dr. Mello's own children who is diabetic. I can't even imagine how gratifying that must be for Dr. Mello and it is surely a source of pride that extends even beyond the prestige of winning a Nobel Prize. It is also a poignant reminder for all us in public service about how deeply personal and incredibly important it is for this research to continue.

You know, I'm not aware of any other Nobel Laureates in my congressional district but that's not to say it hasn't been home to other distinguished figures in our nation's history. Horace Mann, widely regarded as the father of the American education system, served first in the Massachusetts Legislature and later as a member of this House, was born in Franklin, Massachusetts—in my congressional district.

After serving in Congress, Horace Mann ended his career as President of Antioch College and in his final valedictory address to the graduating class of 1859, he said this:

"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for Humanity."

Well, Dr. Mello, there is no doubt that you have scored a triumphant victory for all of Humanity. I am both humbled and inspired by what you have accomplished. And, I am also deeply grateful for all that you've done since winning the Nobel Prize to support funding for public education in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and elsewhere. Your generosity and commitment to that cause is even further evidence that you are deserving of the accolades you have rightly received.

It is now my distinct pleasure to introduce Dr. Craig Mello, the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and to present him with this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2007, a bill directing the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands along the northern coast of Maui, between Sprecklesville and Paia, as a unit of the National Park System.

The citizens of Maui strongly support preservation of this coast, which provides important open space and public beach areas. Thousands of post cards in support of creating a national park or national seashore along this coast have been sent to me and to my predecessor.

This beautiful coastline is under significant development pressure. Its closeness to major population centers in Maui and its popularity with both visitors and residents makes protecting access a major concern.

Supporters of this park have asked that it be named after Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, a native of Maui who grew up in the Hamakua Poko/Paia area. While this bill, which authorizes a study, does not direct what the prospective national park would be named, I would certainly support naming it after Patsy Mink, whose commitment to the people of the island and state was without question.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING D/FW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S "WELCOME HOME A HERO" PROGRAM

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer some well-deserved thanks to those involved in the "Welcome Home a Hero" program. These patriotic ambassadors of good will volunteer at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to welcome home the brave service men and women who protect America abroad.

As I travel through my district, constituents ask me what they can do to show appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our military. "Welcome Home A Hero" volunteers at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport are great examples of how to give back to the community and help our soldiers start their 2 weeks of rest and recuperation at home on a high note. Because of the compassion and good cheer of "Welcome Home A Hero" volunteers, our troops know that a grateful nation honors their service and respects their sacrifice. You can't put a price on that.

On June 12, as the Defense Department marks the return of the 500,000th soldier home for R&R, it is fitting that D/FW International Airport has been selected to host this celebration, precisely because of the success of the "Welcome Home a Hero" program and

the outpouring of support that Texans have shown for our men and women in uniform.

I salute our soldiers, their families, and the great Americans who have volunteered to honor them. Thank you for your dedicated service to country.

10,000 TRAINED BY 2010 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1467 the "10,000 Trained by 2010 Act". This legislation would authorize the appropriation of about \$100 million over the 2008–2011 period for the National Science Foundation to award grants to institutions of higher education for research on innovative approaches to enhancing healthcare informatics through hardware and software solutions, as well as to conduct basic research and improve undergraduate and graduate education in the study of information systems. Higher education facilities would also be able to establish multidisciplinary centers for Health and Medical Informatics Research Centers.

These research centers would be designed to train qualified healthcare personnel and professionals, as well as physicians, nurses, information technology specialists, medical administrators and social scientist.

Ciborra (2002) defines the study of information systems as the study that "deals with the deployment of information technology in organizations, institutions, and society at large." Today, information and information technology have become the fifth major resource available to executives for shaping an organization, alongside people, money, material and machines.

One of the benefits of H.R. 1467 the "10,000 Trained by 2010 Act" is that we will be able to stay "up to date" with other countries and their technology.

Most businesses have shifted from being product oriented to knowledge oriented. This means that employers are now looking for people who can compete in innovative, and knowledge oriented businesses, rather than product oriented business. By funding this Act, we are giving our youth a better knowledge about the field of information systems so that they can have a greater chance on jobs and other opportunities in our country, rather than the employer having to go to foreign nations to look for help. We are also increasing the amount of resources that we have available here in the United States.

We should make a conscious effort to get as many of our minority students and women into the information systems career field as possible. Although this is a highly populated field, there are not very many minorities holding these positions. It is not because they are incapable or lack the drive and determination to get the job done, but simply because they are not very educated about the options and possibilities that are out there.

MENTORING AMERICA'S CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation strengthening the link between high-quality mentoring and public education in the United States.

The Mentoring America's Children Act of 2007 will improve upon the current efforts to match high-quality and responsible mentors with children in need of a strong role model.

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Education began granting funding directly to community organizations and schools to establish or expand mentoring opportunities. Since then, over \$200 million has been allocated contributing to a 20 percent increase in the number of children benefiting from a mentor.

The Mentoring America's Children Act sets out to expand and build upon this success. By increasing the availability and quality of the grants available through the Department of Education, the mentoring program will reach more children in need while enhancing quality.

The bill will also tie mentoring programs funding more closely with the important role mentors can play in improving a young person's academic standing and the learning environment. The legislation would broaden the reach of mentoring to include a number of specific populations of young people who could benefit from a strong role model.

Finally, the legislation also authorizes the Department of Education to conduct high-quality research into successful school-based mentoring programs. Through this research, plus improved data collection and tracking, we will better understand the impact of mentoring and can continue to refine program practices to best meet the needs of children.

Mentoring is a critical element in a child's social, cognitive and emotional development. When it comes to education, a healthy relationship with a mentor plays a key role in improving the learning environment for a young person. Students with a responsible mentor have better attendance and are more connected to their school, schoolwork, and teachers. They perform better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to higher education.

It is an honor to introduce this legislation with a number of my colleagues on the House Mentoring Caucus and others dedicated to the noble cause of mentoring. It was also an honor to work directly with the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the National Collaboration for Youth to develop this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge consideration of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING NINA TINARI

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Nina Tinari, who was recently

selected by Women Making a Difference, Inc. as one of Philadelphia's Next Generation of Women Leaders.

Madam Speaker, Nina began her career in government as an intern in the Press Office of Mayor Martin O'Malley of Baltimore, Maryland. Upon graduation from college, she worked as a volunteer in the campaign office of Mayor Rendell who was running for Governor of Pennsylvania. After his successful bid for Governor, she transferred to Harrisburg to serve as Assistant to the Executive Director of the Inaugural Committee.

Nina was then offered the position of Special Assistant in the Office of Public Liaison. Soon thereafter, she became Deputy Director of Scheduling and Advance in the Governor's Office. She advanced to the position of Deputy Press Secretary and Communications Manager where she served as a liaison between State agencies and the Governor's Office, managed releases and press briefings, and pro actively promoted the policy agenda of Governor Rendell.

Ms. Tinari has a B.A. in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations from Loyola College in Maryland, a Certificate in Non Profit Leadership and Management from the Fels Institute of Government—University of Pennsylvania, and is presently a candidate for a masters in Government Administration from the Fels Institute of Government—University of Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, as the first woman Speaker and someone who is extremely proud of her Italian heritage, I ask you and all of our colleagues to congratulate an up-and-coming leader. A woman who is working hard to blaze a trail for her generation—Nina Tinari.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR WINNING THE PINNACLE AWARD

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, located in my Congressional district, on receiving the 2007 Pinnacle Award from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation. This national award celebrates innovators who have made significant contributions to improving the quality of medication delivery for patients and caregivers.

Los Angeles County is home to more than 2.7 million uninsured residents, many of whom rely on their local health care clinic for needed health services. USC's Community Pharmacy Group earned this honor for their work to serve patients in eight safety-net clinics in underserved neighborhoods in Los Angeles, including the JWCH Medical Clinic at the Weingart Center located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Recognizing that community pharmacists are often the most accessible health care professionals for many underserved patients, USC has trained pharmacists along with residents and students to provide disease management services to high-risk patients, and has helped community clinics purchase lower-cost medication. USC pharmacists work di-

rectly with patients with chronic diseases requiring ongoing medication and lifestyle changes. By implementing pharmacist-based disease management services and education at these clinics, the USC Community Pharmacy Group has demonstrated significant improvements in health outcomes directly attributed to pharmacist interventions.

Prior to the start of the project, none of the eight clinics had a pharmacist available to provide pharmaceutical care to patients in the clinic. Pharmacists have reduced drug costs at the clinics by utilizing patient assistance programs and formulary products. The results were outstanding; patients with chronic conditions increased their use of appropriate medications and improved control of their illnesses.

Madam Speaker, I applaud USC for their commitment to improving health outcomes for low-income patients in Los Angeles. It is my hope that the recognition USC receives through the Pinnacle Award will prompt other communities to try similar successful interventions. Together, through these types of efforts, we can improve the quality of life for millions of underserved Americans in need of quality health care.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NORMAN ROSENSHEIN, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Norman Rosenshein, Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America for his tireless efforts and dedication on behalf of America's veterans. Jewish War Veterans of the USA, is the oldest active veterans association in the United States, founded by civil war veterans in 1896. Today, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA is dedicated to those programs that support the needs of our veterans' community; combat anti-Semitism and bigotry; support American youth through scouting, scholarships and anti-drug programs; and assist oppressed Jews worldwide.

Mr. Rosenshein served in the U.S. Army on active duty from December 8, 1964 until December 7, 1966. He joined the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America in January 1970. Since 1970, he has been an active member of David Blick Post 63 of Elizabeth, NJ. During that time Mr. Rosenshein has held all of the post offices until finally in August of 2006 when he was elected National Commander.

In addition to the Jewish War Veterans, Mr. Rosenshein is active in his congregation, having served as their Vice President. Because of his expertise, Mr. Rosenshein was appointed to the New Jersey Healthcare System Veterans Stakeholder Advisory Group in 1995 and presently serves on their committees. I applaud Mr. Rosenshein's whole hearted commitment to the Jewish War Veterans. He has proved himself a tenacious advocate and his continuous contribution for their welfare and wellbeing is truly commendable.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MARQUETTE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor faithful people and an important historic landmark in my district, the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette, Michigan. For a century and a half, the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette has served as a place of worship for the residents of Marquette and surrounding communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Throughout its rich history, the church and its congregation have served as an anchor to the community and offered important social services to those in the area.

In October of 1855, a small group of people met and considered putting together an organization for a Presbyterian Society in Marquette. A month after this initial meeting, this small group purchased a piece of land on which to erect a church. Called the "Session House," the building originally stood on the corner of Baraga Avenue and Fourth Street in Marquette. In June of 1857, the original 18 members of the Presbyterian Society called a meeting and elected its first elders. The Reverend Jonathan A. Woodruff was named the first temporary pastor. During these early years of the church, a Sunday School was started and common functions such as baptisms and marriages were performed.

By 1865, the size of the First Presbyterian Church's congregation had increased dramatically and the congregation determined that a larger church was necessary. In 1867, a large brick and stone structure was erected on the corner of Front and Bluff Streets in Marquette, Michigan. In the summer of 1868, a horrific fire swept through the downtown area of Marquette, destroying practically every building in the area. Nonetheless, the structure of the First Presbyterian Church survived and the church was finished and dedicated in November of 1868.

Sadly, this structure was destroyed in a second fire that occurred in 1931. Nonetheless, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church remained united in their faith and continued to hold services in various locations. Two faithful church members left a bequest, allowing the church to be rebuilt in 1935. The 1935 structure exhibits the architecture of the English Gothic period and stained glass windows inspired by 13th century churches. The 1935 building still stands today.

Throughout its history, the church has provided not only a place to worship, but a valuable center of social services to the entire Marquette community. In the late 1970s, an adult day care center was started at the church for elderly community members in rooms furnished to meet a variety of needs. The program remains active today and serves approximately thirty people a week, providing vital services to some of the most vulnerable members of the Marquette community.

The genesis of the adult day care center stemmed from another valuable program at the church, the "Lunch Bunch," a social event at the church targeting elderly residents. Members of the congregation cook lunch and make it available to anyone who wishes to attend, primarily elderly members of the community.

One of the church's newer programs, "Stephen Ministry," was brought to the church in 1984. The program trains congregation members in pastoral counseling. Individuals undergoing emotional stress due to bereavement or divorce can seek a Stephen Ministry counselor and receive confidential one-on-one advice. In short, the program has enlisted members of the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette to counsel friends and neighbors during difficult times in their lives.

By organizing and hosting panel discussions, the church has also served as a forum where social problems in the community can be debated and discussed. In some cases, these discussions have yielded important innovative solutions. For example, one panel discussion resulted in the founding of the Medical Care Access Coalition, a collaboration of physicians and pharmacists throughout the area willing to offer free services to uninsured residents in Marquette County.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette will celebrate 150 years of dedicated service to the Marquette community. The church and its congregation have been blessed with dedicated pastors who have demonstrated great vision in building upon the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles found in the Bible to offer a place of worship as well as critical social services to their brothers and sisters of Marquette County. I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the First Presbyterian Church and its faithful congregation upon its sesquicentennial celebration.

RECOGNITION OF SPC JEREMIAH
"JEREMY" DAVID COSTELLO

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Jeremy Costello. Spc. Costello was a motor transport operator who was recently killed by an improvised explosive device while fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Costello was a 22 year-old from Carlinville, Illinois who was assigned to 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Bliss, TX.

Costello is survived by his 4-year old daughter of Alton. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Spc. Costello. Some of his awards and decorations speak to what a great soldier and man he was; the Combat Action Badge and Driver and Mechanic Badge. It is troops like Costello that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. My best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. May God bless him and may God continue to bless America.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANDREA WATKINS AND DENISS QUINTANILLA-CERON

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two outstanding seniors at Eastside High School in Paterson, Andrea Watkins and Deniss Quintanilla-Ceron. These young people are this year's recipients of the Nathan LeBron Scholarship Fund for their commitment to their education and to their futures.

Eastside High School may sound familiar—it is the school featured in the 1989 movie, *Lean On Me*. Many of the young men and women who attend that school face a wide variety of challenges and must overcome much to achieve their goals for a brighter future. The LeBron scholarship is one way that the community can demonstrate its support for their endeavors. Both Andrea and Deniss possess the brilliance of spirit that will turn this small show of support into an extraordinary future.

The scholarship is given in partnership with the Michelle Mitzvah Group of Beth Haverim. Both are named for people who exemplify perseverance and love of life. Nathan LeBron was a cancer survivor. Michelle was a young girl he met before she succumbed to leukemia. Nathan came from a troubled home, but with the love and support of Michelle's father, Marc Appelbaum, he went on to graduate college, earn a masters at Harvard, and head the IT operations at the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Mitzvah group seeks out opportunities to make the community a better place, with particular emphasis on brightening the lives who really need it—much as Marc Appelbaum did for Nathan LeBron in his youth.

I commend the men and women who work with this scholarship fund and who make the social action mission of the Michelle Mitzvah Group come to life. And, I commend Andrea and Deniss for their accomplishments. There is little doubt that they, in turn, will do tremendous things to brighten the lives of others as well.

RECOGNIZING MINNA ZHOU OF
WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minna Zhou of Woodbury, Minnesota, who was recently chosen as a 2007 Young Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Minna has proven herself to be an outstanding young woman through her involvement in Girl Scouts, for which she has received their highest honor, the Gold Award.

She has also become involved in her community by developing and teaching biweekly classes to adopted Chinese children focusing on Chinese language, culture, holidays, music and dance.

At the same time, Minna has published a newsletter sharing this information with her students' parents, to create a mutual understanding and appreciation of their children's background, and helped her students organize a recital showcasing their knowledge.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the important goals of Minna's classes, and I am extremely proud of Minna's dedication to volunteerism in her community. She is a remarkable young leader, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2560 the "Human Cloning Prohibition Act." This legislation prohibits human cloning, and it makes it unlawful for any person to ship, mail, transport, or receive the product of human somatic cell nuclear transfer technology knowing that it will be used for human cloning. H.R. 2650 also makes it illegal for any person to initiate a pregnancy to facilitate human cloning.

Mr. Speaker, by a wide margin Americans believe that human cloning is wrong and immoral. It is also highly inefficient. More than 90% of cloning attempts fail to produce viable offspring. In addition to low success rates, cloned animals tend to have compromised immune system and higher rates of infections, tumors, and other disorders.

Studies conducted in Japan show that cloned mice live in poor health and die early. About a third of the cloned calves born alive have died young, and many of them were abnormally large. The American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) have issued formal public statements advising against human reproductive cloning.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2560 because it reinforces the views and values of the American people. Human beings should be born, not cloned. Bringing a child into this world should be a consecrated act of grace; not a clinical or commercial enterprise. It is one thing to conduct research to find life-saving cures. It is quite another to try and create life in the laboratory. I support the former and oppose the latter.

For these reasons, I support H.R. 2560 and urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

RECOGNIZING BORDEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Borden as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

For those who are not familiar with Borden, it was founded in 1857 by Gail Borden and was originally known as the New York Condensed Milk Company. Borden invented the

innovative process of condensing milk, allowing for the first time, milk to be kept pure and storable without refrigeration. This allowed for milk to be safely distributed over long distances. Borden's condensed milk played an intricate role in sustaining the Union Army during the Civil War.

Borden revolutionized the dairy industry again in 1900 with the "Dairyman's Ten Commandments," which taught dairymen how to better care for the cows and the milk they produce. These methods formed the foundation for modern health regulations.

Borden's lovable spokesman, Elsie the Cow, was created in 1938 by David William Reid. Through appearances in magazines, newspapers and tours around the country Elsie gained popularity, rivaling Mickey Mouse, and she made her film debut in the classic Little Men. Today, she ranks in the top 10 advertising icons of the 20th century.

In 1995 Borden Inc. was sold to the investment firm of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. Then, in 1997 the Borden brand and Elsie's image were bought by Mid-America Dairymen Inc., which would eventually merge with other cooperatives to form Dairy Farmers of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Borden on their 150th anniversary and their many accomplishments and contributions to the dairy industry over the years.

RECOGNIZING TYLER FREDERICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Frederick, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 69, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Frederick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE CHILD LABOR PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Child Labor Protection Act of 2007 is a narrowly drafted bipartisan bill that amends the Fair Labor Standards Act, FLSA, to increase civil penalties for those who violated child labor provisions. Specifically, it would: Increase pen-

alties from \$11,000 to \$50,000 for violations that cause death or serious injury; provide that the penalty can be doubled when the violation causing death or serious injury is repeated or willful; and provide that the \$50,000 penalty can be assessed for each violation.

This legislation does not make the impositions of penalties mandatory—whether or not to assess a penalty is still discretionary with the Secretary of Labor—but it would provide the Department of Labor with a much needed enforcement tool to address the most serious child labor violations, deter repeat occurrences and further strengthen its enforcement of laws that protect children.

There is much that must be done to strengthen our child labor laws, and this bill is the foundation for future action that I hope my Subcommittee on Workforce Protections of the Committee on Education and Labor will take on these issues.

CHARLES T. ORTMAN FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles T. Ortman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Charles has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, senior patrol leader, patrol leader, den chief, Order of the Arrow representative, and instructor. Charles is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Charles is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Charles poured a concrete sidewalk around the side of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles T. Ortman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CHARLES CROWE FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Crowe, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Charles has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assist-

ant senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, quartermaster, and librarian. Charles is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Charles is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Charles removed weeds and debris and planted bushes at a cemetery in Weatherby Lake, MO.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Crowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DALLAS/FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S "WELCOME HOME A HERO" PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport for their role in sponsoring the internationally recognized "Welcome Home a Hero" program. DFW has been selected by the U.S. Military to host the celebration of the success of this critical program for soldiers and their families.

DFW's "Welcome a Hero" program has been praised as the premiere volunteer homecoming program for soldiers returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait for much needed R&R with their families.

On June 12, 2007, the 500,000th soldier to return home during Operation Iraqi Freedom for 2 weeks of Rest and Recuperation (R&R) will travel through DFW International Airport.

As a representative of part of the DFW Airport and a frequent traveler between DFW and Washington Reagan, I am grateful that they have taken to heart the mission of our brave soldiers. I have participated in the "Welcome Home a Hero" program, and I will always remember the pride I felt and the thankfulness I had for the dedication of those men and women to our country and freedom.

I extend my sincere congratulations the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and their success with the "Welcome Home a Hero" program.

ZACHERY R. BODE FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachery R. Bode, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachery has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Zachery has been involved in scouting, he has earned 32 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, and chaplains aide. Zachery

is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Zachery placed safety signs and evacuation procedures throughout the church and school at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church and School.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachery R. Bode for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SEAN TYLER COWDEN FOR THE
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Tyler Cowden, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Sean has been involved in scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, den chief, and historian. Sean is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sean painted house numbers on the street of a local housing division.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Tyler Cowden for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TOWN OF CICERO, NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the town of Cicero's 200th anniversary. Located on the southern shore of Oneida Lake, the town of Cicero serves as a northern suburb of metropolitan Syracuse. The town was named after the great Roman orator Marcus Tullius Cicero.

The town of Cicero was one of the townships of the former Central New York Military Tract. The CNY Military Tract was land reserved for soldiers who served in the American Revolution. Cicero became a part of the town of Lysander when Onondaga County was formed in 1794. The town of Cicero split from the town of Lysander in 1807. The town of Cicero also included the town of Clay until 1827 when the township was divided.

The town contains a rich history on involvement within Central New York. The town of Cicero was crucial to the building of the Erie Canal. The construction of the canal brought many settlers into the town, expanding its

growth. The town of Cicero was also extensively involved within the salt industry. The salt industry provided many people with jobs, either making barrels or in furnishing lumber. When the salt mines dried up, the town's residents turned to the agriculture and dairy industries.

Over its history, the town of Cicero has changed drastically. From a small farming community, Cicero has transformed into one of the fastest growing suburbs of the region.

It has been an honor for me to represent the town of Cicero and its citizens for close to 20 years. The town of Cicero has provided the Central New York region with a prime example of a successful township filled with great people. The residents of the town of Cicero should be proud of their rich heritage. I congratulate them as they celebrate their first 200 years, and wish them nothing but the best for next 200 more.

RECOGNIZING SHANE DARWIN
POPE II FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shane Darwin Pope II, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 946, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shane has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Shane has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shane Darwin Pope II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM PAYNE
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Payne, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Payne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RO-
LAND KELLY OF SOUTH BEND,
INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Roland Kelly, a 16-year member of the South Bend Common Council, World War II veteran, and beloved member of the community. Mr. Kelly lost his battle with a strep infection on May 26, 2007.

Born and raised in Port Chester, New York, Mr. Kelly enlisted in the United States Navy at age 17 to serve in WWII. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1950 and remained in South Bend to work in broadcasting until 1972. At WSBT-TV, Mr. Kelly served as the news anchor and the news director. Though a natural in front of the camera, Mr. Kelly began a new career at the local bank where he served as the Vice President and Director of Marketing, and he would retire as the Director of Business Development. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to bettering the community through volunteering and mentoring.

Mr. Kelly was a member of many boards and committees, but most notably he sat on the South Bend Common Council as Vice-President until his death. Described as the "peacemaker" by fellow council members, he sponsored an anti-gun ordinance in 1991 and was instrumental in including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in anti-discrimination laws. Mr. Kelly was also influential in revamping a tax abatement ordinance which has fostered millions of dollars of new investment in our community. Committees he sat on included the Information and Technology committee and the Community and Economic Development committee, and he was chairperson of the Community Relations committee. For his dedication to the community, Mr. Kelly was inducted into the South Bend Community Hall of Fame in 2001.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, generous friend, devoted father, doting grandfather, and Notre Dame's most enthusiastic fan. He was described as a "ham at heart" and was often seen performing in theatre and music groups. Off-stage, Mr. Kelly never missed an opportunity to share a witty story.

Mr. Kelly leaves behind three children, seven grandchildren, a great-grandson, and countless friends. His ever-present energy and humor will be dearly missed. It is with great pride that I celebrate the life and service of Roland Kelly.

HONORING THE MERCURY 13
WOMEN

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 421, to honor the trailblazing accomplishments of the "Mercury 13" women, whose efforts in the early 1960s

demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space.

The 13 women who participated in this program demonstrated the willingness and capability that women all around the world, past and present, possess, and in many cases must possess to overcome an indictment of sexism and discrimination that our society often presents. Although their participation in these tests and trials yielded no concrete results, the 13 women trailblazers ought to be recognized for having endured and overcome such grueling physical, medical and psychological astronautical fitness examinations.

These 13 women—Jerri Cobb, Wally Funk, Irene Leverton, Myrtle “K” Cagle, Jane B. Hart, Gene Nora Stumbough (Jessen), Jerri Sloan (Truhill), Rhea Hurtle (Woltman), Sarah Gorelick (Ratley), Bernice “B” Trimble Steadman, Jan Dietrich, and the late Marlon Dietrich and Jean Hixson—all surpassed society’s expectations of rejections, by proving that although women are typically smaller and lighter than men, women are still fit to be good occupants in cramped space vehicles. These women attempted the dream that many others only dreamed of—flying the newest and the fastest craft.

Mr. Speaker, though few Americans know the names of the 13 women trailblazers, their valiant attempts to earn the opportunity to fly a spacecraft call for worldwide recognition. Because of the secrecy of the test programs, these women never received the recognition for their accomplishments, which laid that critical groundwork for women who have reached and those who are seeking to reach the skies. We can show our gratitude and appreciation for these women trailblazers by honoring them with the passing of this bill.

As a representative of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, home to an integral number of space exploration projects, centers, businesses, and constituents employed in the space industry, I strongly support legislation that seeks to inspire, motivate and recognize those individuals who assist with the improvement and advancement of space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 421 to honor the trailblazing accomplishments of the 13 female pilots of Mercury 13.

RECOGNIZING THE TRAVIS REGIONAL ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee (TRAFAC) as they celebrate their 10-year anniversary.

The TRAFAC is comprised of over 150 business and civic leaders who work together to support the men and women of Travis Air Force Base. The mission of the TRAFAC is to “maintain liaison with personnel at Travis Air Force Base, promote the mission of the base

to the community, and enhance the importance of the facility as an instrument of national security.”

The TRAFAC meets monthly on base to receive updates from the Commanders of the 60th AMW, 349 AMW Reserve, and 615 CRW and to recognize airmen from the various wings for going “above and beyond” in their service.

In addition, the TRAFAC hosts various events throughout the year to bring the communities surrounding the base and base personnel closer together. Events include the Military Recognition Night, NCO Night, and Commander’s Night. The TRAFAC also hosts a Contractor’s Breakfast to educate businesses about bidding for contracts on base.

Moreover, the TRAFAC was instrumental in working with the local community to ensure the Base Realignment and Closure Panel understood the vital role of Travis AFB in securing the Nation.

A great deal of the TRAFAC’s success is due in part to the leadership of the Fairfield-Suisun and Vacaville Chambers of Commerce and the Committee’s own leadership. Past Presidents include Don Erickson, 1997–1998, Bev Dorsett, 1998–1999, Al Lavezzo, 1999–2000, Len Augustine, 2000–2001, Gary Falati, 2001–2002, Dale Baumler, 2002–2003, Ben Huber, 2003–2004, Bud Ross, 2004–2005, Ray Schoch, 2005–2006, and Foy McNaughton, 2006–2007.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with the TRAFAC to support Travis AFB, both locally and in Washington, and have had the opportunity to support their nomination as the best base support organization in the Air Mobility Command.

As the TRAFAC celebrates their 10-year anniversary, I would like to thank current and past members of TRAFAC for their dedication to the men and women of Travis AFB and recognize them for their support of the base and its vital mission.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RONALD A. RUTLAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and career of Colonel Ronald A. Rutland. Colonel Rutland is the commander of the 512th Airlift Wing at the Dover Air Force Base. Colonel Rutland is a distinguished member of the Reserves Officers Association with more than 6,500 flying hours in training, airlift and tanker experience. I commend Colonel Rutland for his years of public service defending our Nation.

Colonel Rutland received a Bachelor Degree of Political Science at Mississippi State University in 1973, and in 1977 attended the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Colonel Rutland’s passion for learning never subsided, and in 1988, he went back to school to receive his Masters of Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle University.

Colonel Rutland received his undergraduate pilot training at the Columbus Air Force Base in 1973. From 1977 until the present, Colonel Rutland has served in various areas of command, including Air Training, Strategic Air Command, and Air Mobility Command, at six different Air Force Bases within the United States. Most recently, Colonel Rutland served in Iraq as the commander of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base.

Ronald has served as a distinguished member of the United States Air Force for 34 years and has been honored on several occasions for his service. He has received countless awards such as the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Colonel Rutland for his continued dedication to the Air Force. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our Nation. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware and the United States of America.

HONORING REV. RICHARD P. OLDHAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Richard P. Oldham, an exemplary citizen and friend from my Congressional District. Rev. Oldham will celebrate his 50th anniversary this month as Pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

A native of Louisville, KY, Rev. Oldham began his ministry at the First Baptist Church in Savannah, TN while attending nearby Union University. He later earned an advanced degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and served various churches in Kentucky, Michigan, and Arkansas.

In 1957, he came back to Kentucky to become pastor of Glendale Baptist Church. During his five decades of spiritual leadership, over 250 young men and women have gone on to serve in the pastorate and in other mission assignments all over the world. He has also presided over an estimated 4,000 baptisms.

Rev. Oldham has remained very active in the Glendale community throughout his tenure including over 30 years as director of the Annual Youth Bible Conference at Camp Joy; numerous speaking roles at the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention; and past service as President of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor’s Conference. Rev. Oldham is also the founder of Anchored Christian School in Bowling Green.

It is my great privilege to honor Rev. Richard P. Oldham today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the Warren County community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING ASTRONAUT WALTER
MARTY SCHIRRA, AND EXPRESS-
ING CONDOLENCES ON HIS PASS-
ING

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 446, to honor and recognize the life of astronaut Walter Marty Schirra, and to express condolences on his passing. Walter Marty Schirra passed away in La Jolla, CA, at the age of 84.

The American community is sad to have lost one of its original space trailblazer—a true pioneer in both innovation and discovery. In attempting to place men in space, Schirra was chosen to serve as one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts for Project Mercury. Serving as an astronaut and naval officer, Schirra became the first man to fly on all three of our Nation's space programs—Apollo 7, Gemini VI-A, and Mercury 8 (Sigma 7). Prior to his passing, "Astronaut Wally Schirra" logged a total of 4577 hours of flight time, with 295 of those being in space. Additionally, he performed 267 landings in an aircraft carrier.

His lifetime of achievement also included a decorated record of service in the United States Military. He flew 90 combat missions in F-84E jets, as well as downing at least one MIG fighter, while serving as an exchange pilot with the 154th Fighter Bomber Squadron during the Korean War. His courage and valor was eventually recognized with three distinguishing flying crosses, two air medals, two NASA Distinguished Services Medals, and induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Wally Schirra serves as a positive role model and an asset to the space community. Schirra was an accomplished astronaut whose personal and professional career was filled with positive milestones and accomplishments. Schirra always rejected mediocrity by rejecting to conform to commonplace expectations. Schirra pushed the limits of 2 discovery and was determined to work harder and go farther than anyone before him.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, which ranged from educational attainment, military awards, hall of fame inductions, active-ness in diverse clubs and organizations, as well as experiences, his humility was one of his most endearing traits. Although he was a great asset to the space industry, he assumed a very modest character.

As one of the few and profound trailblazers ever known to the United States Naval Academy, NASA, and the space community, he has helped pave the way for much of our knowledge about the operations of the space system. As a Member who represents many NASA-employed constituents and as a strong supporter of the expansion of our space programs, I understand the important role that Schirra played in advancing our scientific explorations in space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions that late astronaut Walter Marty Schirra has made in the space industry and beyond, while also expressing condolences for his passing.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
JOHNNY W. WELTON

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Johnny W. Welton, as he retires as the director of Contra Costa Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), after 40 years of serving students in special education.

Johnny W. Welton's career in special education encompasses 12 years as a classroom teacher, 3 years as a resource teacher, 8 years as a site and central office administrator and 16 years as the Director of the Contra Costa SELPA.

In his role as director of SELPA, Welton established a Resource Parent Program, initiated Facilitation Skills training for staff IEP teams, and introduced Solutions Panel mediation training. Throughout his career, Johnny W. Welton has worked for equity, quality, reforms, and results in special education and conflict resolution.

On many occasions during his illustrious career, Johnny W. Welton received national, State and local awards and recognition for his service to the children of Contra Costa County.

Among these are: the first "Peacemaker of the Year Award" from the California Department of Education; the "Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award" presented by the Association of California School Administrators; a certificate of Appreciation awarded by Contra Costa Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and the first Alternative Dispute Resolution grant from the California Department of Education in 1993, and in each year to follow.

Johnny W. Welton's outstanding service to special education and dispute resolution more than validates his awards. He assisted in the reorganization and establishment of the California Department of Education Procedural Safeguards Unit, Compliance Monitoring Unit; he built partnerships between Education and other local agencies serving children with special needs; and he chaired the state of California Alternative Dispute Resolution Steering Committee.

As Johnny W. Welton retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of education of the children of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of special education as an exceptional educator and SELPA Director. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF MINQUAS FIRE COM-
PANY NO. 1 OF NEWPORT, DE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commemorate an important anniversary of service to the Town of Newport and the entire State of Delaware.

On May 21, 1907, concerned citizens met in the historic town of Newport to discuss the for-

mation of a fire company. At the time, there had been numerous fires which destroyed properties before the already established fire companies in Wilmington, New Castle and Newark could arrive and fight the blazes. After much discussion and debate, Lt. Governor John M. Mendenhall suggested to the 68 founders that the company should be named the Minquas Fire Company No. 1 commemorating a tribe of Native American Indians who traded with early settlers along the Christiania River.

From its genesis, the Minquas Fire Company has taken great pride in providing volunteer fire rescue and emergency medical services to the citizens of greater Newport. They began by purchasing property in the unit block of North James Street. Several extensions and expansions have taken place over the years the most recent being the erection of an ultra modern facility in 2005.

Minquas' first President Howard P. Weldin and Chief Thomas Bullen oversaw the original building project and the construction of the first fire house. In 1908, a horse drawn chemical engine was purchased from Radnor Fire Company of Pennsylvania for \$1,000 and put in service at the brand new station.

Today President Curtis Clifton and Chief Michael Saggione command the Fire Company. Through their leadership, Minquas has continued to acquire the latest fire, rescue, ambulance apparatus and equipment to respond to the emergency service needs of their community. The Company's Motto "We go where duty calls" exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the men and women of the Minquas Fire Company No. 1.

I am proud of the contributions the volunteers of Minquas have made to Delaware over all these years and I congratulate them on this important milestone of 100 years of service.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM CARMEN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader and volunteer from the Fourth Congressional District, Sam Carmen. Mr. Carmen is a recognized leader at the national and local level for his work in the area of educational innovation and reform. Mr. Carmen is retiring from the Milwaukee Teacher's Education Association (MTEA) after 28 years of faithful service.

Sam Carmen graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations. Following graduation, he worked for both public sector and private sector unions in various capacities.

Mr. Carmen joined the staff of MTEA in 1979. In 1986, he became MTEA's chief spokesperson in contract negotiations with the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) Board. While he was serving as chief negotiator, MTEA developed a portfolio of educational reforms that were incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement and became national models. For example, Mr. Carmen negotiated an interview process for filling teacher vacancies replacing the traditional seniority model. MPS utilizes this process to select teachers who best fit their needs with the input of teachers, administration, and parent representatives.

In 1994, Sam Carmen was selected as the MTEA Executive Director while continuing as the chief negotiator. As Executive Director, he was a leader in the successful establishment of the MPS/MTEA Teacher Mentor Program, the Joint Teacher Evaluation and Mentoring Program, the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC), and the Milwaukee Partnership Academy. Most recently, Mr. Carmen was instrumental in the development and implementation of a collaborative strategic planning process with MPS and the Greater Milwaukee Committee entitled "Working Together, Achieving More."

Sam Carmen has been active in organizations including: Citizen Action of Wisconsin; the Urban Directors' Association, a national network of urban union executives; the UWM School of Education Dean's Community Advisory Committee; and the Holmes Partnership, a network of professional organizations working to improve teaching and learning for all children.

During Mr. Carmen's tenure, the MTEA established annual community outreach activities including: an art show and awards program for MPS students; a scholarship program for MPS graduates, particularly those pursuing teaching careers; and the Food for Our Future partnership with Hunger Task Force, a food drive and advocacy program.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to rise and pay tribute today to Sam Carmen's contributions to educational reform in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING THE 46TH ANNUAL YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CON- FERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 46th annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference that began in Washington, DC, this past weekend and continues throughout this week. I am pleased to have the distinct honor of being one of the congressional hosts for the YMCA Youth Governor's breakfast with my House colleagues this Wednesday morning.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nationwide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate State and national government.

Madam Speaker, I would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth:

Lillian Wilson of Alabama, Emile Gordon of Arizona, David Murdter of California, Alex Chandler of Colorado, Samantha Free of Connecticut, Anna Galati of Delaware, Bradley Pough of Florida, Kristin Graham of Georgia, Tiana Maruyama of Hawaii, Elise Marchant of Idaho, Sean Tompkins of Illinois, Martin Turman of Indiana, Will Webb of Louisiana, Jay Gobeil of Maine, Arnell Limberry of Maryland, Alexis Morin of Massachusetts, Trenton Swank of Michigan, Dilara Uskup of Michigan, Eric Kunkel of Minnesota, Josh Travis of Missouri, Olaniyi Solebo of the Model United Na-

tions Program, David Colaco of New Jersey, Matthew Scarvie of New Mexico, Matthew Vigliotta of New York, Tucker Piner of North Carolina, Stuart Downey of Oklahoma, Gregory Murray of Oregon, Jeff Mitch of Pennsylvania, Neel Mehta of South Carolina, Matt Robinson of Tennessee, Tyler Thomason of Tennessee, Dave Harris of Texas, Marco Leung of Virginia, Erik Ashida of Washington, Damien White of the District of Columbia, Caroline Kitchens of Wisconsin.

I wish all of the 2007 YMCA Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

ON THE PASSING OF THE HONOR- ABLE JUDGE RALPH M. BUR- NETT

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of a great constituent of the 6th District of Maryland—The Honorable Ralph M. Burnett, Jr. Ralph M. Burnett was a Maryland district court judge and pioneer in the fight against prostate cancer. Judge Burnett died from the disease on May 9, 2007 at the age of 64.

Judge Burnett was born in 1943 in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to the late Ralph M. Burnett, Sr., and Betty Burnett. He graduated from St. Paul's High School in 1961 and earned a BA from Dickinson College, in 1965. A Vietnam Veteran, Judge Burnett was sent to Korea and served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army until 1969. He then enrolled in the Baltimore School of Law and received a degree in 1972.

Judge Burnett began practicing law in Oakland, MD, and served as Garrett County's State Attorney from 1974–1978. In December of 1993, he was appointed an associate district court judge. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference, and served on the Editorial Board of Justice Matters until his passing.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996, Judge Burnett became a devoted advocate for the prostate cancer community. He served as chairman of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, NPCC, from 1999–2001. Under his leadership, federal funding for prostate cancer research doubled and the NPCC tripled in size.

After stepping down as chairman, Judge Burnett stayed on as a board member and doggedly pursued more prostate cancer treatment options for patients. He was also an advocate for the Johns Hopkins University's Specialized Program of Research Excellence and served on several panels within the Department of Defense where he worked to leverage the DOD's investment in prostate cancer research and participated in discovering the lethal phenotype that causes the disease.

Judge Burnett is survived by his former wife, Lucy Burnett, a son, P. Chase Burnett and his wife Jaime, three grandchildren, Ian, Eli, and Sophie Burnett, a daughter, Catherine Burnett, and one sister, Clara Tordella.

Ralph M. Burnett's funeral was held on Saturday, May 12, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Oakland.

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, I am honored but humbled to offer this token of appreciation for the distinguished service of Ralph M. Burnett to others and his many accomplishments. I hope that this simple testament provides some comfort to ease the grief of his family, neighbors and friends over his loss.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE DAVID F.
LEVI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge David Levi, one of our Nation's respected judges and a true friend. After 17 years of service on the Federal bench Judge Levi is retiring to become the next dean of Duke University's Law School. As his colleagues, friends and family gather to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant.

The son of Edward and Kate Levi, Judge Levi was born into a distinguished family that valued public service and the pursuit of knowledge to serve others. His father was the President of the University of Chicago and served as the United States Attorney General under President Gerald Ford, while his mother was equally committed to a variety of worthy pursuits. In 1972, Judge Levi graduated from Harvard, magna cum laude, with a degree in history and literature. Upon graduating from Stanford Law School in 1980, he clerked for Judge Ben Duniway of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and followed that by clerking for Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell.

After his tenure with Justice Powell ended, Judge Levi returned to California and began a renowned career with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Sacramento. From 1983 to 1986 he served as Assistant United States Attorney and worked in the office's criminal division. In 1986 Judge Levi was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. As the U.S. Attorney, Judge Levi led one of the most successful public corruption prosecutions in the state's history.

In 1990 Judge Levi was nominated by President George H.W. Bush to become a U.S. District Judge of the Eastern District of California. Since 2003, he has served as the Chief Judge of the District. After over a decade and half on the federal bench he has earned a reputation as one who still approaches each case, large and small, with a commitment to tirelessly examine all of the facts and treat each case with the utmost of importance.

Judge Levi also is a national leader on legal reform. Recognizing his keen intellect, former Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed him to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in 1994, which Judge Levi chaired from 2000–2003. Four years ago, Justice Rehnquist named Judge Levi as Chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. In these roles he has revised and brought a much needed dose of reform to the rules of procedure in federal courts, making the courts more efficient, accurate and fair.

Madam Speaker, as Judge David Levi leaves the bench to become the dean of Duke University's prestigious law school, I am truly honored to pay tribute to a friend and dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing David, his wife Nancy and their sons William and Joseph continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE ALFRED E.
ZAMPELLA SCHOOL

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Alfred E. Zampella School, whose outstanding work has been rewarded with the Heart of Gold Award for the Second Kindest School in New Jersey for the third year in a row.

The Kindness is Contagious program began in New Jersey several years ago as a way to encourage students, teachers, parents, and the community to work together to perform "acts of kindness." At the beginning of the school year, students are taught about the values of compassion and generosity; they are then given journals to record their individual acts of kindness at home and at school while teachers, administrators, school personnel, and parents recognize and reinforce these acts. By the end of the school year, these important values are integrated into the daily education of students.

The students in the Alfred E. Zampella School—from the Pre-Kindergarten class to the Eighth Grade—have performed 53,926 acts of benevolence, empathy, thoughtfulness, and compassion in the past school year. It is clear by the sheer number of acts, that kindness is truly contagious in this school. These individual acts ranged from picking up a piece of trash in the cafeteria to a school-wide penny collection to raise money for leukemia research. The students not only learned how to improve their school community but also discovered the valuable life lesson of doing good works for other people—not for the recognition, but because it makes another person's life better.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending Principal Sandra Frierson, the staff, and students of the Alfred E. Zampella School for the tens of thousands of acts of kindness they have performed. They are a great credit to our country and its steadfast spirit of generosity and goodwill.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE R. BARHAM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Alice R. Barham, a warm and wonderful person who passed away on Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

Her family and friends will memorialize her at a "going home" celebration to be held on

Saturday, June 9, 2007 at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Miami, FL.

Mrs. Barham was a mother, grandmother, sister, and nurse. However, more than that, she was one of the most caring people I have ever met. Born on July 17, 1938 to John and Ruth Stephens, of Atlanta, Georgia and christened Alice Ruth.

Alice Barham was one of the most caring people I have ever met, and so it was natural for her to choose a profession in which she could help people in pain and in need of comfort, and in a very personal way. She began her career in nursing at Jackson Memorial Hospital in the Pediatric Nursing Unit in the Skaggs and Woodard building. Later in her career, she became a Public Health Nurse for the Miami Dade County Health Department and worked in Liberty Square and James E. Scott housing projects providing health services to the underserved residents in the community. Alice was also employed at Mt. Sinai Hospital before eventually going to the Miami Dade County Public Schools System as a Public Health Nurse and biology teacher and retiring.

Mrs. Barham had the ability to soothe people who were hurt, calm people who were worried and bring comfort to people who were afflicted. Children were naturally attracted to her, as was she to them. She had a remarkable gift, and she was generous in sharing it so freely with so many people in our community. I could not begin to estimate the number of people whose lives she touched and whose path she made a little easier.

Mrs. Alice Barham was also my dear friend, and a dear friend to my family, and she played a very instrumental role in the lives of my children. I am deeply saddened by her passing, but I am grateful for having had her in my life. My heart goes out to her family and I thank them for sharing this phenomenal woman with us. Indeed, the legacy she leaves behind will live on in the people she helped throughout her career and life.

HONORING THE WORK OF DEBRA
STEINBERG, RECIPIENT OF THE
NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF
ORGANIZATIONS' 2007 ELLIS IS-
LAND MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Debra Brown Steinberg for her reception of the 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Through its Ellis Island Medals program, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) honors United States Citizens whose life and work show dedication to community service and the preservation of ethnic heritage. Ms. Steinberg joins an elite group of medalists, who represent several industries and come from many different backgrounds.

Debra Steinberg is an accomplished attorney who has devoted time in her professional life to advancing civil rights. Most commendable is her pro bono representation of families of 9/11 victims. Determined to protect the rights of this group in need, Ms. Steinberg assisted in drafting The September 11th Family

Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, H.R. 1071. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this bill. As a founding member of "Project 9/11," a consortium of lawyers formed in October 2001, Ms. Steinberg provided legal services for families of victims of the September 11th attacks, including those seeking citizen status. Collectively, these lawyers devoted many hours of their lives to this fight.

Once again, I offer my heart-felt congratulations to Ms. Steinberg at the time of this venerable distinction, the 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. As representative of the 8th Congressional District of New York, I am honored to have such a distinguished citizen working in my district to improve the lives of all Americans and their families.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007. This bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support a comprehensive program of embryonic stem cell research.

In my 14 years with the Committee on Science and Technology, I have exhibited a firm and consistent commitment to scientific research. That includes stem cell research.

Nearly all of the scientific societies are strong supporters of this legislation, and many have contacted me urging support of S. 5. The bill supports the development of techniques to derive stem cells from non-embryo sources for the improved understanding of and treatments for diseases.

Mr. Speaker, this bill that will enable critically important, ethical stem cell research. The President vetoed such legislation in the past, and I hope that he will listen to the majority of Americans and support this measure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
OWEN A. HEETER OF ROCH-
ESTER, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of COL Owen A. Heeter, who faithfully served our country in the United States Air Force for 30 years. Colonel Heeter passed away on February 17, 2007.

Colonel Heeter was born in Athens, Indiana in 1936. He graduated from Rochester High School in 1954 as an accomplished athlete and went on to attend DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. At DePauw, Colonel Heeter played baseball and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. However, it was his experiences in the Reserve Officers Training Corps that led him to a career dedicated to serving our country.

After graduation in 1958, Colonel Heeter joined the United States Air Force, becoming

one of our country's most successful pilots. He was stationed at various bases within the United States and overseas, including Spain, Thailand, and Panama. Some of his most notable accomplishments include becoming the first pilot to fly an HH-53 helicopter across the Pacific Ocean, flying rescue missions over Vietnam, and recovering bodies from the mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana.

Colonel Heeter received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding service during his tours of duty. Included in these are the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Heeter was a member of the international sales department at Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, Texas. After retiring 10 years later, he returned to Rochester, Indiana, eventually marrying his high school sweetheart. In the last decade of his life, Colonel Heeter was an active member of Grace United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, the LeRoy Shelton American Legion Post #36, and many other organizations. He enjoyed working on his golf game and spending time with his grandchildren.

Colonel Heeter represented the best that this country has to offer. His selfless dedication to the United States, to his community and to his family will always be remembered. It is with great pride that I celebrate the life and service of COL Owen A. Heeter.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND BETH
HANKS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Beth Hanks on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, which they will celebrate June 15.

The story of Beth Ballentine Hanks and William "Bill" Franklin Hanks is one of love at first sight and the American Dream. Beth grew up in South Carolina and Bill grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. The couple met while attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

At Furman, Bill, a sophomore at the time, spotted Beth, a freshman, waiting in line for the freshman orientation tea. He knew she was the one. Bill and his fraternity brothers showed up at the freshman dance to see Beth. He had his friends continually cut in on Beth and her date so that they never had the opportunity to dance together. Eventually, her date got mad and left. This was when Bill made his move. Bill and Beth were married on June 15, 1957 in Beth's hometown of Walterboro, SC. Today, the couple splits their time between homes in Knoxville, TN and Frapp Island, SC. They enjoy attending UT football and basketball games and spending time with friends and family. The Hanks have 4 grown children, Linda, William, Wallace, and Lucille, and 10 grandchildren. After 50 years, Bill and Beth are very supportive of one another and

still do their daily devotion together before they go to bed, no matter how late or how tired they may be. Madam Speaker, in closing, I am pleased to honor Bill and Beth's Golden Anniversary and urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO PAT LOOMES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pat Loomes, upon her retirement from Girls Inc. after 30 years of distinguished service to girls in Alameda County, California. This fall, Ms. Loomes will retire from Girls, Inc. leaving an organization that now serves more than 7,000 girls, has more than 90 staff members and a \$5 million budget.

While feminists across the country marched to demand equal rights in the workplace, in the classroom, and at home, Pat Loomes realized that improving the quality of women's lives meant empowering them in their most formative years, when they were girls. Although many of her friends disagreed, arguing that advocating for girls weakened the women's movement, she followed her heart. Her commitment to leveling the playing field for girls laid the foundation for Girls Incorporated of Alameda County and contributed to the organization's impressive growth.

Pat Loomes saw Girls, Inc. as a vital opportunity to set girls' lives on the right track and give them the skills needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Among her first accomplishments was a grant from the Department of Labor that allowed girls to learn about carpentry, construction and other non-traditional jobs from women already in the industry.

Soon, she realized that girls' programs received far fewer funds from United Way than boys' programs and embarked on a campaign to end the discrimination. She recalls, "I wrote a letter every week to the president of the board asking to increase funding until I got a response." Pat Loomes' campaign led to equitable funding, not only for Girls Inc. of Alameda County, but also for other girls' programs such as Campfire Girls, YWCA and the Girl Scouts.

In 1983, she created a formal program to treat child victims of sexual abuse. When government funds were discontinued for pregnant teens across the country, Girls Inc. moved to fill the gap and provided sex education and life options beyond high school, such as college, work, and travel.

Ms. Loomes' achievements and success with the myriad of programs at Girls, Inc. have been recognized by numerous organizations, such as United Way and then, Seaton Manning Outstanding Agency Professional Award for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of girls.

I join the community in thanking Pat Loomes for her outstanding legacy. She has molded and shaped the girls' movement in a profound way that will be felt for generations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JAMES
DETHERAGE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituent Mr. James Detherage for 35 years of service and 30 years as Chief with the West Chester Fire Department.

As a husband, father and Fire Chief, James has given outstanding service and support to the people of West Chester. His lengthy and tireless work in West Chester over three decades is a constant source of pride and unconditional praise. As Chief of the West Chester Fire Department, James has seen the department grow from a volunteer staff to its current state of 40 full-time firefighters. Outside of his post as Chief, he has also served as President of the Butler County Fireman's Association, President of the Southwest District of Ohio Fire Chiefs Association and President of the Butler County Fire Chief's Association.

James' attitude, fierce determination, and community spirit are a source of energy for all those around him. So much of James' work is done quietly and without reward and it is my honor to take this moment to say thank you and congratulate him on his new position as West Chester Township Public Safety Director.

TRIBUTE TO BOOKER T. DOZIER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Booker T. Dozier, of Inkster, Michigan, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Dozier is a pillar of the Inkster community, where he has lived for over 50 years. Time and again, Inkster has turned to Mr. Dozier for guidance, organization and leadership. In 1993 he led the effort to create Inkster's Memorial Day parade, culminating in a successful annual event which continues today. His organizational skills were put to use again when he was called on by the Mayor of Inkster to spearhead a successful effort to raise \$100,000 for young man in need of a heart transplant.

There are also many different organizations which have benefited from Mr. Dozier's guidance. He has been involved with the Inkster Summerfest Festival Committee; the Because Inkster Cares Committee; the Optimist Club; the Inkster Dance Club; and the Inkster Goodfellows, who work to ensure that there will be "no child without a Christmas." Mr. Dozier also served as the Chairman of the Inkster Commission on Aging for over 20 years and has been a member of the Wayne County Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels for the elderly.

Booker T. Dozier has consistently served his community. His efforts to improve Inkster have not gone unnoticed, as one of the most well known and used facilities within the city is the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center. I thank Mr. Dozier for all of his efforts to better

his community and I congratulate him on the milestone of his 90th birthday.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 318 OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, headquartered in Marion, IL.

1932, our Nation was mired in the depths of the Great Depression. Prices were low. The average new car cost \$610 and you could fill up the tank for 10 cents a gallon. However, few could afford the car or the gas as employment was over 23 percent nationally with over 13 million Americans having lost their jobs since the beginning of the Depression in 1929. It was in this time of economic distress that Local 318 was founded in Harrisburg, IL.

Local 318 covers 14 counties in the southernmost area of Illinois and is comprised of 900 skilled operators. Their commitment to providing the highest quality of labor to their hundreds of signatory contractors extends to a strong training program, both at the apprentice level and upgrades for Journeymen as well.

The members of Local 318 are also contributing members of their respective communities and, through their local, they support a number of area charities and provide a scholarship fund to support their dependents who attend college.

With union membership struggling in many areas of the country, Local 318 boasts a 98 percent union membership for their covered trades. This speaks well of the benefits that the members realize through their union membership and also the increased productivity for the contractors who use the skilled workers of Local 318.

In 1996 Local 318 moved its headquarters to Marion, IL. They continue to provide quality representation for their members and, through their training and community involvement, they are a positive example of organized labor in southern Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR MCGOVERN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation honoring the life of Eleanor McGovern by officially designating the post office in her home town of Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the Eleanor McGovern Post Office.

The wife of Presidential nominee and United States Senator George McGovern, Eleanor

made headlines of her own while campaigning solo across the country for her husband. Eleanor engaged crowds on the campaign trail with her eloquence and frequently participated in network television and radio discussions concerning national and international policy. Her high profile helped transform public perception of the role and value of women in politics.

Aside from politics, Eleanor worked as a tireless advocate for children and families. She served on the boards of directors for Dakota Wesleyan University, the Psychiatric Institute Foundation, the Child Study Association, the Erickson Institute of Chicago and Odyssey House of New York. She founded the Martha Movement and was a development officer for the Child Development Associates Consortium. Eleanor and her family also established the McGovern Family Foundation in Washington, DC, to raise funds for alcoholism research.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this legislation that honors the life of Eleanor McGovern.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI JEROME DAVIDSON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Rabbi Jerome Davidson after nearly 50 years of dedicated service to the community of Great Neck, New York.

Rabbi Jerome Davidson is no ordinary rabbi. He has successfully fused his life as a religious leader and a Jewish mentor together with his commitment to a life of civic engagement and Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world. Throughout his years of service, Rabbi Davidson has effectively transcended the walls of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck in Nassau County, New York, establishing himself as an inspirational leader for both his congregation and community.

Jerome Davidson joined Temple Beth-El, a member congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism, as an assistant rabbi in 1958, and became its senior rabbi in 1971. Rabbi Davidson soon impressed the congregation with his dynamic sermons, driven enthusiasm and compelling sense of humor. Rabbi Davidson's brilliance and erudition were key in shaping the congregation's future. The educational opportunities presented by the Temple's comprehensive library and historical museum were central to Rabbi Davidson's success in teaching his congregants. Under his devoted tutelage, Temple Beth-El grew to become a thriving beacon of Jewish life in Great Neck; an arena of countless Bnai Mitzvah, weddings, other life-cycle events and social affairs.

Rabbi Davidson also laid the foundations of a successful Religious School and Early Childhood Education Center that addressed the needs of the diversified and growing congregation. Rabbi Davidson's exceptional creativity and boundless imagination confirmed Temple Beth-El, with its impressive membership of over 1200 families, as one of the most innovative and energetic Reform congregations in America. His uncoupled wisdom and

unbridled inspiration served as a source of strength and encouragement in the aftermath of a devastating fire that struck the Temple in 1991.

Rabbi Davidson's steady rise to Jewish national iconography is no surprise considering the unique leadership qualities he demonstrated in serving Temple Beth-El. Rabbi Davidson's service as President of the Synagogue Council of America, as well as past president of the Rabbinic Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion only cemented Rabbi Davidson as a true Jewish leader.

Madam Speaker, Rabbi Davidson's commitment to Reform Judaism informed and complemented his involvement in pluralism and social justice. Rabbi Davidson's multiple terms as President of the Great Neck Clergy Association, and his groundbreaking efforts in developing interfaith dialogue, have served to better the lives of those around him, successfully realizing his lofty goals of building a community of tolerance and understanding. Rabbi Davidson's exemplary interfaith achievements, coupled with his involvement as a founding member of the American Jewish World Service, led the New York Board of Rabbis to honor him "Rabbi of the Year" in 1994.

More recently, Rabbi Davidson has been a trailblazer in formally welcoming the gay and lesbian community into Jewish life. He has likewise advocated for religious pluralism in Israel. Today, Rabbi Davidson continues to serve on the faculty of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and as a member of its Board of Governors. Rabbi Davidson also serves on the Advisory Board of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, and is deeply involved in a plethora of other local and national Jewish organizations. Rabbi Davidson's adept ability for translating his values into action by positively affecting the world around him is truly an inspiration to all of those whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, the accolades bestowed upon Jerome Davidson for his almost 50 years of outstanding service to the Long Island community are well deserved. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Jerome Davidson for his outstanding work and wishing him many more years of success as he becomes Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST LT. KEITH HEIDTMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute of an American patriot and fallen Connecticut son. A native of Norwich, 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman was killed in Iraq on Memorial Day, May 28, 2007 while piloting a helicopter north of Baghdad.

I spent Memorial Day in Iraq with the troops and witnessed firsthand the dangers they face every minute. To later learn that the day of my visit would also be the same as Keith's passing was particularly painful.

Keith was a 2001 graduate of Norwich Free Academy where he was an all-conference

baseball player, talented basketball player, and honor student. He then attended the University of Connecticut where he participated in ROTC, graduating cum laude in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in resource economics.

After graduation, Keith joined the army. At the top of his class, he chose to attend the United States Army Aviation Warfighting Center where he became a helicopter pilot. He was deployed to Iraq in December as part of Task Force Lightning.

Keith Heidtman represents the promise of America. A talented and dedicated young man, he laid down his life to serve his country. While his smile may no longer brighten the lives of those around him, the memory of his life shall always endure. Young men and women are serving our Nation with honor and distinction every day. They are on the frontlines, defending those in need of help. There is no job nobler. Keith understood this great responsibility and volunteered for service to protect his country and its citizens, strangers and family members alike.

At his funeral, I was moved by the incredible outpouring of support demonstrated by his friends and community. Hundreds of people came to pay their respects and salute this American hero.

I recently had the chance to meet Keith's mother and stepfather, Maureen and Arthur, at their home in Norwich. After meeting them it was clear to me where Keith developed his penchant for service—his mother. As an employee for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Maureen has dedicated her life to helping those in need. Keith carried on her legacy in the U.S. Army where he bravely served his country and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman and his service to our great Nation. Keith and his sacrifice will forever be remembered by me, a mourning Connecticut, a grateful Nation, and family members who will never forget.

**HONORING DR. MANUEL LOPEZ'S
80TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Manuel (Manny) Lopez as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Dr. Lopez has served the Oxnard community as a doctor, an activist, a community volunteer and as an elected official. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Lopez on this special day.

Born in Oxnard in 1927, Dr. Lopez attended local schools through high school, attended Ventura Community College and went on to attend UC Berkeley for his undergraduate education and as a student of optometry. He returned to his community and has practiced Optometry in Oxnard since 1962.

Before serving on the Oxnard City Council for 12 years and then serving as mayor for 14 years, Dr. Lopez was involved with the Oxnard Planning Commission, the Housing Authority, the Redevelopment Agency, the Community Relations Commission and the Economic Development Commission. While serving as a Member of the Council and as mayor, Dr.

Lopez represented the city on a number of local and regional committees dealing with such issues as transportation planning, wastewater treatment, local airport policy and agricultural land preservation. He has also participated in many community groups such as the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Oxnard Optimist Club, the Oxnard Boys and Girls Club and many others.

As a result of his dedication to his community, Dr. Lopez was chosen as the 1991 Oxnard Distinguished Citizen of the Year and, in 1992, he received the Patrick Henry Award. In 2006 Dr. Lopez was the Grand Marshal of the Oxnard Christmas Parade. It is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize and commend Dr. Manuel Lopez for his ongoing service to his community on this joyous occasion of his 80th Birthday.

**IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL
MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS
WEEK**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This week of awareness gave us the opportunity to highlight the issues and concerns that minority cancer patients and their families face on a daily basis. It is important that we acknowledge the challenges present for minorities who suffer with cancer so that we can take the necessary steps to alleviate these barriers.

Cancer patients endure chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgical operations and other forms of medical treatment to fight the numerous types of cancer. The medical community continues to conduct research to find cures for cancer and develop more effective ways to treat individuals struggling with the disease. Unfortunately these medical advances are out of reach for many minorities dealing with cancer. The American Cancer Society has documented that the advances in cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment has evaded minority groups:

Minority populations often face numerous obstacles receiving equal access to prevention, early detection, and quality treatment and tend to receive lower quality health care than white patients even when insurance status, income, age, and severity of conditions are comparable.

Racial and ethnic minorities may lack health insurance, earn lower incomes, and experience language barriers, racial bias, and stereotyping which can affect interactions between patients and physicians and contribute to miscommunication or delivery of substandard care.

Eighteen percent of African Americans and 35 percent of Hispanic/Latinos are uninsured, while only 12 percent of whites lack health insurance.

I applaud the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network for bringing national awareness to the issues faced by minority cancer patients and for their efforts in celebrating National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

**IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
BRANDON HADAWAY**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Sergeant Brandon Hadaway, 25, of Valley, Alabama, died on May 30, 2007, in Afghanistan. Sergeant Hadaway was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd General Support Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sergeant Hadaway was serving on his third tour when his helicopter took fire from enemy combatants. He was a proud graduate of Valley High School and will be dearly missed in his community. As a testament to his sacrifice, the City of Valley has already declared a flag day in his honor.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sgt. Hadaway, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our nation. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

**FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO RAMÓN
DÍAZ SÁNCHEZ**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez, an electrician by profession, is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and a peaceful pro-democracy activist who desires to exercise his basic human rights and who supports freedom, democracy and the Rule of Law for the people of Cuba. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the totalitarian regime continues to oppress the men and women of Cuba, especially those who work to shed light on the vicious crimes committed against the Cuban people by the tyrant.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's condemnable crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Sánchez was arrested simply for expressing his opinions. Mr. Díaz Sánchez was subjected to a sham trial where he was "sentenced" to 20 years of confinement in the infernal totalitarian dungeons of the brutal regime.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez has continued to advocate for freedom and justice while locked in the hellish squalor of the dictatorship's gulag. He has participated in various hunger strikes to draw attention to the horrific conditions that political prisoners are subjected to in the gulag. He is routinely denied medical treatment although he currently suffers from painful colitis and has been denied a biopsy for a rapidly growing tumor on his prostrate.

According to Mr. Díaz Sánchez's nephew, NGOs have offered Mr. Díaz anti-inflammatory medications to relieve his symptoms but as of yet neither he nor his family have received any such medications to relieve his symptoms. The burden of the cruel treatment he has received and the physical strain of the sub-human conditions in which Mr. Díaz Sánchez is forced to live have completely drained him of his desire to nourish himself. He survives on barely on a few spoonfuls of putrid food each day.

In the face of such horrific mistreatment, the regime's henchmen refuse to provide Mr. Díaz or his family with medical diagnoses. Madam Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Díaz Sánchez is suffering at the whim of a monstrous regime just 90 miles from our shore, although he has done nothing other than desire that his children and the long-suffering people of Cuba live in freedom with fundamental human rights and dignity.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Díaz Sánchez has courageously risked his life in order to bring a semblance of humane treatment to those confined in the nightmare that is the totalitarian gulag. His example shines a light of courage on the abominable disregard for human rights in that oppressed island. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING BOB PERKINS FOR ADVANCING JAZZ THROUGH HIS BROADCAST AND WRITING CAREER

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Bob Perkins, an outstanding Philadelphian who has devoted more than four decades as a radio host and commentator to the advancement and enjoyment of Jazz.

"B.P. with the G.M." has been the radio signature for Bob Perkins bringing the Good Music of Jazz to grateful Philadelphia listeners for the past ten years from WRTI-FM, the Temple University flagship station.

Bob Perkins has entertained and informed listeners for 42 years as a radio newscaster, commentator and jazz host, 37 of those years in Philadelphia, while writing opinion pieces and jazz commentary for numerous local publications.

Bob was born and raised in South Philadelphia, where he listened night and day to the radio that was on constantly in the Perkins household. His career took him briefly to Detroit, but by 1969 he was back in Philadelphia at WDAS as newscaster, news director and editorial director. Meanwhile he was hosting a popular Saturday night Jazz program on public radio's WHYY-FM.

Ten years ago Bob moved to WRTI-FM, where he shares his encyclopedic knowledge of Jazz, and the men and women who perform it, with his devoted audience. It is programming that brings prestige and listeners to WRTI-FM while keeping alive this unique and indigenous American art form.

Bob Perkins has been the deserving recipient of more than three dozen awards for jour-

nalistic, broadcast and community excellence. He is the recipient of a Mellon Jazz Community Service Award and the Kal Rudman Milestone in Radio Award. In 2003, he was inducted into the Philadelphia Broadcast Hall of Fame. He and his wife Sheila live in Philadelphia's West Oak Lane section.

At age 73, Bob continues his weeknight and Sunday broadcasts, offering his insights, his stories, and his love on "the G.M." And so I rise in recognition for a lifetime of achievement. On behalf of all your grateful fans, thank you Bob Perkins, native son and Philadelphia civic treasure.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS VALUE-ADDED INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act of 2007, which is designed to give agricultural producers an incentive to invest in value-added enterprises. Through such investment, agricultural producers would not only realize a greater share of the profits generated by their products, but would also further economic development efforts, particularly in rural areas like my Central and Northern New York Congressional District.

Specifically, the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act would provide a 50-percent tax credit, up to \$30,000 annually, for producers who invest in value-added enterprises. To allow for the cyclical nature of farm incomes, this legislation would allow the tax credit to be applied over a 20-year period. In the case of a farmer-owned entity, the credit would be allocated on a pro rata basis among eligible persons holding qualified interests in the entity.

Sadly, American farmers often get the smallest portion of the profit generated by the raw product they produce. As the agricultural product is transported, processed, and marketed before it arrives on the grocery shelf, several middlemen cash in on the product. By offering this tax credit, we can provide farmers and farmer-owned entities with an added incentive to produce value-added products and move toward greater financial independence. They will be able to earn more by reaching up the agricultural marketing chain to capture more of the profits their product generates. In addition, producer investment in value-added enterprises will help American farmers adapt to the challenges of marketing their products in an increasingly global economy.

Finally, the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act would further economic development efforts in and help stem migration from rural areas. This aspect of the legislation is very important to all of my constituents as seven of the 11 counties I represent have poverty rates greater than the national rate of 12.7 percent. In addition, five of my constituent counties have experienced a decrease in their populations since 2000.

Thus, it is my hope that my colleagues will join with me to enact this important legislation. It not only would help American farmers, but

it would provide yet another tool in our effort to further economic opportunities and increase the quality of life in our nation's rural areas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act of 2007. This legislation can serve as an essential first step in a comprehensive policy to combat climate change.

When constructing a comprehensive, economy-wide global warming policy, what is the first thing we have to know? It is what we are currently emitting, who is emitting it, and data on where in the economy it makes sense to regulate. The biggest mistake the EU made in creating its cap and trade system was distributing credits without having a good idea of its emissions first. This resulted in power companies being given more credits they needed. In turn these power companies were able to sell their excess credits and gain a windfall rather than being forced to reduce emissions.

This comprehensive registry will give us all the data we need to craft future legislation and intelligently decide how to allocate credits. I am not suggesting that this legislation act as a substitute to a cap and trade program, however. Speaker PELOSI, Chairman DINGELL and Chairman BOUCHER have all pledged to bring a comprehensive cap and trade bill to the House floor by the end of this year. I applaud these efforts and that is why I am a cosponsor of two of the most prominent cap and trade bills in the House today. At the very least I hope the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act can become an amendment to one of these worthy cap and trade proposals.

Not only will this bill lay the groundwork for future legislation on climate change, but the bill will serve other important functions as well. For instance, by requiring greenhouse gas reports by entity and by facility investors will be able accurately assess the risks and opportunities of various companies. Currently all investors know that carbon regulation is coming. But despite heroic efforts by the Carbon Disclosure Project, many companies still do not disclose their carbon emissions to their investors. This bill will require all large publicly traded companies to finally let their investors know what they are doing about the climate.

Further, the public will be able to hold companies accountable for their actions to address global warming. Just as we saw with the successful Toxics Release Inventory program, many companies will see the light once they truly become aware of their own impacts. This increased awareness will almost assuredly lead to reduced emissions.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the legislation is that it would require international companies who trade on American stock exchanges to report their emissions abroad as well. No longer will we be in the dark about how foreign operations in developing countries are adding to the world's accumulation of greenhouse gases. This means that we could

finally have a window into what the true emissions of greenhouse gases are in countries that are rapidly developing such as India and China. The disclosures would also provide a strong disincentive for multinationals to relocate facilities abroad just to avoid disclosure or future regulation.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to say that we need to accomplish something this Congress to get us on the path toward mandatory emissions cuts. I truly hope that we enact a strong cap and trade bill, but unfortunately the President has made quite clear that he will veto any efforts to enact such legislation. If the President insists on such an unwise decision I hope that at the very least he would consider backing the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act. Global warming is simply too important for us to play politics with this issue.

INTRODUCING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Early Childhood Educator Loan Forgiveness Act of 2007.

We have paid a lot of attention to reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act so far this year. One of the disturbing things we often hear in these discussions is how far behind our students are when compared with their peers around the world. Another problem we have talked a lot about is the persistent achievement gap between well-off, White children and everyone else in this country.

Last month Speaker PELOSI hosted a National Summit for America's Children, where we heard from leading child development experts about the importance of providing high-quality early education opportunities to boost success in school and in life.

Science shows definitively that a majority of brain development occurs in the first few years of life, and that influences—positive or negative—in these formative years can last a lifetime. We were reminded at the summit that “getting it right” in the early years is “far more advantageous than trying to fix things later.”

Kindergarten teachers know from their research: Often when 5 year olds enter school, there is already a noticeable achievement gap between those students from more privileged backgrounds and those from disadvantaged households.

Too often, working families cannot afford to send their children to a high quality preschool, so the youngsters end up spending their formative years in the care of family members—often untrained in early childhood development. The resulting hours in front of a television certainly do not stimulate the positive neural activity needed for healthy brain development.

Not only does this experience limit the child's potential for success in school, it also hurts our country. Children without a high quality early education experience are less likely to contribute to the economy, more likely to commit crimes, and more likely to experience poverty and the poor health that goes with it.

Scientists, economists, teachers, and parents tell us that we must invest in our country's future by funding increased access to high-quality early childhood education.

And yet, time and time again, I hear from the early education community in Hawaii that even with more classrooms and more money, they could not make real progress toward serving every family who wants to send their children to preschool because they don't have enough qualified teachers.

We know that a highly qualified teacher makes a huge difference for children. We owe it to them to have a teacher who knows what he or she is doing. Unfortunately, there are strong economic barriers to increasing the number of qualified early education workers. When students are choosing a career, it is unlikely that they will decide to take on the thousands of dollars in educational debt for a job that will pay so little. The average preschool teacher makes less than janitors, secretaries, and many other workers with only a high school diploma. As the saying goes, “it just doesn't add up.”

We can change the equation. We can start by providing loan forgiveness to students who get a degree in early childhood education or a related field and then teach in low income communities, where the real need is, for 5 years. This bill will do just that.

Cost is not the only prohibitive factor for prospective early education teachers. In some places there are simply no training programs available. Our teachers' colleges are not prepared to turn out the number of quality teachers we will need if we are to make a real investment in early education. Further, even with a more robust workforce, States would not have the money they need to implement high-quality early education standards, build the facilities, and run the programs. I am working with Chairman MILLER and others on the Education and Labor Committee to address these problems in other pieces of legislation.

But while we work on all the other issues, we cannot wait to pass this bill. It is a necessary first step because its benefits will not accrue immediately—training new teachers will take time.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we do not miss a chance to make real progress toward closing the disturbing achievement gaps our children face—both amongst themselves and when compared with their peers around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLAIR HOLT FIREARM LICENSING AND RECORD OF SALE ACT OF 2007

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

I introduce this bill in tribute to a brave young hero, Blair Holt, who sacrificed his life in an attempt to protect the life of a friend. Blair was fatally shot and killed by a young man possessing a deadly firearm and a reckless disregard for human life.

Madam Speaker, the proliferation of guns in our community impacts us all. My son lost his

life back in 1999 due to senseless gun violence and my nephew sits in jail today, convicted of fatally shooting someone.

I am sick and tired of shooting and the loss of innocent lives over and over again in our neighborhoods.

In Chicago, since the beginning of this school year alone, over 31 children have lost their life by violence, and the great majority were killed with guns.

This bill will assist law enforcement in tracking the flow of guns and require those who possess guns to be trained in gun safety, handling, and storage.

The purpose of this bill is to restrict the availability of firearms to criminals, youth, and gang members, and to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the unrecorded sale and transfer of guns.

I know that the powerful gun lobby will attack this bill for restricting the availability of guns, but all of us who live in the inner cities where our children and family members are losing their lives on a weekly or daily basis understand the need to implement a common sense federal law that will inform law enforcement of where the guns are and who is possessing them.

This bill will implement the same type of system that we have in place for licensing drivers and registering cars. No sensible individual can argue with the fact that with over 200 million guns in the United States, we need a uniform system to keep track of these weapons. Mayors and law enforcement officials across the country have been calling for this type of legislation for years and I hope that we will be successful in making Blair's Bill federal law.

Madam Speaker, the future of our children, our families, and our communities is at stake. I encourage my colleagues to join my efforts to increase accountability in our firearm policy and support H.R. 2666—the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and Department of Labor cooperation on employment issues.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1257, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, S. 274, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, H.R. 1254, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, S. Res. 22, reaffirming the constitutional and statutory protections accorded sealed domestic mail, S. 967, to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees, S. 1046, to modify pay provisions relating to certain senior-level positions in the Federal Government, S. 1099, to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance, S. 597, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years, H.R. 1255, and S. 886, bills to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and S. 381, to establish a fact-finding Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies.

SD-342

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Af-

fairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-124

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Woods Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Nepal, Joseph Adam Erel, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Richard Boyce Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

SD-419

Appropriations

Homeland Security Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

S-128, Capitol

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled "Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act".

SR-325

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impact of rising gas prices on America's small businesses.

SR-428A

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine public safety and competition issues, focusing on the 700MHz auction.

SR-253

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 535, to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, S. 456, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, S. 1145, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, S. Res. 105, designating September 2007 as "Campus Fire Safety Month", S. Res. 215, designating September 25, 2007, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day", the nomination of Leslie Southwick, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Cir-

cuit, and possible authorization of subpoenas in connection with the investigation of the legal basis for the warrantless wiretap program.

SD-226

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine importing success, focusing on work-family policies from aboard make economic sense for the United States.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the federal government, focusing on a model public-private partnership accelerating research toward a cure.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

SD-226

JUNE 20

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

JUNE 26

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending executive nomination.

SD-226

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 13

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider original bills entitled, "The Higher Education Access Reconciliation Act", and "The Higher Education Amendments of 2007", and other pending calendar business.

SD-628